



SCOTCH TENANT - FARMERS
ON THE
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES
OF CANADA.

THE REPORTS OF
Mr. JOHN STEVEN, Purroch Farm, Hurlford, Ayrshire; and
Mr. ALEXANDER FRASER, Balloch of Culloden, Inverness,
ON
Their Visit to Canada in 1893.



Published by Authority of the Government of Canada
(Department of the Interior).

FEBRUARY, 1894.



FARM SCENE IN MANITOBA—THE BERESFORD STOCK FARM.

With the Compliments of SIR CHARLES TUPPER,
the High Commissioner for Canada,
from whom further copies may be obtained.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,
Victoria Chambers,
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London, S.W.

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PREFACE.

IN July, 1893, the High Commissioner for Canada, by direction of the Minister of the Interior, invited the following gentlemen (who are all connected with the agricultural industry in the different parts of the United Kingdom from which they come) to visit the Dominion of Canada, and report upon its agricultural resources, and the advantages the country offers for the settlement of farmers and farm labourers, and the other classes for which there is a great demand:—

Mr. A. J. Davies, Upper Hollings, Pensax, Tenbury, Worcestershire; Mr. W. H. Dempster, Millbrook Lodge, Clarboston Road, South Wales; Mr. Alexander Fraser, Balloch, Culloden, Inverness, Scotland; Mr. R. H. Faulks, Langham, Oakham, Rutland; Mr. J. T. Franklin, Handley, near Towcester, Northamptonshire; Mr. J. J. Guiry, Peppardstown, Fethard, Clonmel, Ireland; Mr. Tom Pitt, Oburnford, Cullompton, Devon; Mr. John Roberts, Plas Heaton Farm, Trefnant, North Wales; Mr. Reuben Shelton, Grange Farm, Raddington, Nottinghamshire; Mr. Joseph Smith, 2, Mowbray Terrace, Sowerby, Thirsk, Yorkshire; Mr. John Steven, Purroch Farm, Hurlford, Ayrshire, Scotland; Mr. Booth Waddington, Bolehill Farm, Wingerworth, Chesterfield; and Mr. William Weeks, Cleverton Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

In addition, two other farmers—Mr. John Cook, of Birch Hill, Neen Sollars, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire; and Mr. C. E. Wright, of Brinkhill, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire—visited the Dominion, under their own auspices, during 1893; and they have been good enough to prepare Reports of their impressions.

The Reports, if published together, would make a bulky volume. It has therefore been decided to divide them into the following parts:—

- Part 1—The Reports of Messrs. Shelton, Waddington, Cook, and Smith.
- Part 2—The Reports of Messrs. Franklin, Faulks, and Wright.
- Part 3—The Reports of Messrs. Weeks, Pitt, and Davies.
- Part 4—The Reports of Messrs. Roberts and Dempster.
- Part 5—The Reports of Messrs. Steven and Fraser.
- Part 6—The Report of Mr. Guiry.

Part 1 will be circulated in the following counties:—Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, Westmoreland, York, Lancashire, Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derby, and Nottingham.

Part 2, in Lincoln, Rutland, Leicester, Northampton, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertford, Bedford, Bucks, Oxford, Berks, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Sussex.

Part 3, in Warwick, Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

Part 4, in Wales; Part 5, in Scotland; and Part 6, in Ireland.

Any or all of these pamphlets, as well as other illustrated pamphlets issued by the Government, may be obtained, post free, by persons desiring to peruse them, on application to the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B., High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.; to Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Secretary, at the same

*From whom
Pamphlets
obtainable.*

address; or to any of the agents of the Canadian Government in the United Kingdom, whose names and addresses are as follows:—Mr. John Dyke, 15, Water Street, Liverpool; Mr. Thomas Grahame, 40, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow; Mr. E. J. Wood, 79, Hagley Road, Birmingham; Mr. P. Fleming, 44, High Street, Dundee; Mr. W. G. Stuart, Nethy Bridge, Inverness; and Mr. G. Leary, William Street, Kilkenny. Copies may also be obtained from the steamship agents, who are to be found in every village.

*Land
Regulations in
various Provinces.*

As the land regulations of the different Provinces are frequently referred to in the Reports, they are quoted in detail in the following paragraphs; but they are, of course, subject to alteration from time to time:—

Prince Edward Island.—The available uncultivated and vacant Government land is estimated at about 45,000 acres. These consist of forest lands of medium quality, the very best having, of course, been taken up by the tenants in the first instance, and their price averages about one dollar per acre. Parties desiring to settle upon them are allowed ten years to pay for their holdings, the purchase-money to bear interest at 5 per cent. and to be payable in ten annual instalments.

Nova Scotia.—There are now in Nova Scotia about two millions of acres of ungranted Government lands, a considerable quantity of which is barren and almost totally unfit for cultivation; but there is some land in blocks of from 200 to 500 acres of really valuable land, and some of it the best in the province, and quite accessible, being very near present settlements. The price of Crown lands is \$40 (£8 sterling) per 100 acres.

New Brunswick.—Crown lands, of which there are some 7,000,000 acres still ungranted, may be acquired as follows:—(1.) Free grants of 100 acres, by settlers over 18 years of age, on the condition of improving the land to the extent of £4 in three months; building a house 16 ft. by 20 ft., and cultivating two acres within one year; and continuous residence and cultivation of 10 acres within three years. (2.) One hundred acres are given to any settler over 18 years of age who pays £4 in cash, or does work on the public roads &c., equal to £2 per annum for three years. Within two years a house 16 ft. by 20 ft. must be built, and two acres of land cleared. Continuous residence for three years from date of entry, and ten acres cultivated in that time, is also required. (3.) Single applications may be made for not more than 200 acres of Crown lands without conditions of settlement. These are put up to public auction at an upset price of 4s. 2d. per acre; purchase-money to be paid at once; cost of survey to be paid by purchaser.

Quebec.—About 6,000,000 acres of Crown lands have been surveyed for sale. They are to be purchased from the Government, and are paid for in the following manner:—One-fifth of the purchase-money is required to be paid the day of the sale, and the remainder in four equal yearly instalments, bearing interest at 6 per cent. The prices at which the lands are sold are merely nominal, ranging from 20 cents to 60 cents per acre (15d. to 2s. 5½d. stg.). The purchaser is required to take possession of the land sold within six months of the date of the sale, and to occupy it within two years. He must clear, in the course of ten years, ten acres for every hundred held by him, and erect a habitable house of the dimensions of at least 16 ft. by 20 ft. The letters patent are issued free of charge. The parts of the Province of Quebec now inviting colonisation are the Lake St. John District; the valleys of the Saguenay, St. Maurice, and the Ottawa Rivers; the Eastern Townships; the Lower St. Lawrence; and Gaspé.

Ontario.—Any head of a family, whether male or female, having children under 18 years of age, can obtain a grant of 200 acres; and a single man over 18 years of age, or a married man having no children under 18 residing with him, can obtain a grant of 100 acres. This land is mostly covered with forest, and is situate in the northern and north-western parts of the province. Such a person may also purchase an additional 100 acres at 50 cents per acre, cash. The settlement duties are—To have 15 acres on each grant cleared and under crop at the

Preface.

end of the first five years, of which at least two acres are to be cleared annually ; to build a habitable house, at least 16 feet by 20 feet in size ; and to reside on the land at least six months in each year. In the *Rainy River* district, to the west of Lake Superior, consisting of well-watered uncleared land, free grants are made of 160 acres to a head of a family having children under 18 years of age residing with him (or her) ; and 120 acres to a single man over 18, or to a married man not having children under 18 residing with him ; each person obtaining a free grant to have the privilege of purchasing 80 acres additional, at the rate of one dollar per acre, payable in four annual instalments.

Manitoba and North-West Territories.—Free grants of one quarter-section (160 acres) of surveyed agricultural land, not previously entered, may be obtained by any person who is the sole head of a family, or by any male who has attained the age of 18 years, on application to the local agent of Dominion lands, and on payment of an office fee of \$10. The grant of the patent is subject to the following conditions having been complied with :—

By making entry and within six months thereafter erecting a habitable house and commencing actual residence upon the land, and continuing to reside upon it for at least six months in each year for the three next succeeding years, and doing reasonable cultivation duties during that period.

Persons making entry for homesteads on or after September 1st in any year are allowed until June 1st following to perfect their entries by going into actual residence. The only charge for a homestead of 160 acres is the entrance fee of \$10. In certain cases forfeited pre-emptions and cancelled homesteads are available for entry, but slightly additional fees, and value of improvements thereon, if any, are demanded from the homesteader in each case, and when abandoned pre-emptions are taken up they are required to perform specified conditions of settlement. Full information can be obtained from the local agents. In connection with his homestead entry the settler may also purchase, subject to the approval of the Minister of the Interior, the quarter-section of the same section, if available, adjoining his homestead, at the Government price, which is at present \$3 per acre. In the event of a homesteader desiring to secure his patent within a shorter period than the three years, he will be permitted to purchase his homestead at the Government price at the time, on furnishing proof that he has resided on the land for at least 12 months subsequent to date of entry, and has cultivated 30 acres thereof.

The following diagram shows the manner in which the country is surveyed. It represents a township—that is, a tract of land six miles square, containing 36 sections of one mile square each. These sections are subdivided into quarter-sections of 160 acres each, more or less.

TOWNSHIP DIAGRAM.

640 ACRES.						N.					
1 MILE SQUARE.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.					
	30.	School Lands	28.	27.	H.B. Lands	25.					
	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.					
	18.	17.	16.	15.	14.	13.					
	7.	H.B. Lands	9.	10.	School Lands	12.					
	6.	5.	4.	3.	2.	1.					
W.						E.					
						S.					

The right of pre-emption has ceased to exist, having been altogether discontinued since 1st January, 1890.

Information respecting timber, mineral, coal, grazing and hay lands, may be

obtained from any of the land agents. Homesteaders in the first year of settlement are entitled to free permits to cut a specified quantity of timber for their own use only, upon payment of an office fee of 25 cents.

It must be distinctly understood that the land regulations are subject to variation from time to time. Settlers should take care to obtain from the land agent, when making their entry, an explanation of the actual regulations in force at that time, and the clause of the Act under which the entry is made endorsed upon the receipt, so that no question or difficulty may then or thereafter arise.

British Columbia.—In this province any British subject who is the head of a family, a widow, or a single man over 18 years, or an alien proposing to become a British subject, may acquire the right from the Provincial Government to pre-empt not more than 160 acres of Crown lands west of the Cascade Range, and 320 acres in the east of the province. The price is 4s. 2d. an acre, payable by four annual instalments. The conditions are—(1) Personal residence of the settler, or his family or agent; (2) improvements to be made of the value of 10s. 6d. an acre. Lands from 160 to 640 acres may also be bought at from \$1 to \$5 an acre, according to class, without conditions of residence or improvements.

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Syndicate have not yet fully arranged the terms upon which they will dispose of their unoccupied lands. They own about 1,500,000 acres, but they are much broken up by rock and mountains.

The land belonging to the Dominion Government lies within the "Railway Belt," a tract 20 miles wide on each side of the line, which begins near the sea-board, runs through the New Westminster district, and up the Fraser Valley to Lytton; thence it runs up the Thompson River valley, past Kamloops and through Eagle Pass, across the northern part of Kootenay district to the eastern frontier of British Columbia. The country is laid out in townships in the same way as in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. The lands may be purchased at a price not less than \$5 (£1) per acre—free from settlement conditions, no sale, except in special cases, to exceed 640 acres to any one person. The lands may be "homesteaded" in certain proclaimed districts by settlers who intend to reside on them. A registration fee of \$10 (£2) is charged at the time of application. Six months is allowed in which to take possession, and at the end of three years, on proof of continuous residence of not less than six months annually and cultivation, he acquires a patent on payment of \$1 per acre for the land. In case of illness, or of necessary absence from the homestead during the three years, additional time will be granted to the settler to conform to the Government regulations. Any person after 12 months' residence on his homestead, and cultivation of 30 acres, may obtain a patent on payment of \$2.50 (10s.) per acre. These conditions apply to agricultural lands.

In addition to the free-grant lands available in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, several companies have large blocks of land which they offer for disposal at reasonable rates, from \$2.50 up to \$10 per acre. Among others, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company (Land Commissioner, Mr. L. A. Hamilton, Winnipeg) has about 14 millions of acres; and the Hudson Bay Company (Chief Commissioner, Mr. C. C. Chipman, Winnipeg) has also a considerable area. The same remark applies to the Canada North-West Land Company (Land Commissioner, Mr. W. B. Scarth, Winnipeg) and the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company; and there are several other companies, including the Land Corporation of Canada. The Alberta Coal and Railway Company also own nearly half a million acres of land in the district of Alberta. The prices of these lands vary according to position, but in most cases the terms of purchase are easy, and arranged in annual instalments, spread over a number of years. Mr. R. Seeman, c/o The Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company, Winnipeg, has purchased about 80,000 acres of land from

that railway company. He is prepared to sell the land at a reasonable rate per acre, a small sum being paid down, the remainder in annual instalments on a graduated scale. Mr. Seeman has already sold about 40,000 acres during the last year. As will be seen from some of the delegates' Reports, Lord Brassey, Senator Sanford, and others have land for sale. The Colonisation Board have also land for disposal, under favourable arrangements, particulars of which may be obtained of Mr. G. B. Borradaile, Winnipeg.

In all the provinces improved farms may be purchased at reasonable prices—that is, farms on which buildings have been erected and a portion of the land cultivated.

The following are the average prices in the different provinces, the prices being regulated by the position of the farms, the nature and extent of the buildings, and contiguity to towns and railways:—Prince Edward Island, from £4 to £7 per acre; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec, from £2 to £10; Ontario, from £2 to £20; Manitoba and the North-West Territories, from £1 to £10; and British Columbia, from £2 to £20. These farms become vacant for the reasons which are explained with accuracy in many of the accompanying Reports. They are most suitable for persons possessed of some means, who desire more of the social surroundings than can be obtained in those parts of the various provinces in which Government lands are still available for occupation and settlement.

Canada has already assumed an important position as an agricultural country, and the value of its exports of such products alone now nearly reaches \$50,000,000* annually, in addition to the immense quantity required for home consumption. The principal items of farm and dairy produce exported in 1892—the latest returns available—were: Horned cattle, \$7,748,949; horses, \$1,354,027; sheep, \$1,385,146; butter, \$1,056,058; cheese, \$11,652,412; eggs, \$1,019,798; flour, \$1,784,413; green fruit, \$1,444,883; barley, \$2,613,363; pease, \$3,450,534; wheat, \$6,949,851; potatoes, \$294,421. Besides the articles specially enumerated, a considerable export trade was done in bacon and hams, beef, lard, mutton, pork, poultry, and other meats, as well as in beans, Indian corn, oats, malt, oatmeal, flour-meal, bran, fruits, and tomatoes. The chief importers of Canadian produce at the present time are Great Britain and the United States, but an endeavour is being made, and so far with success, to extend the trade with the mother country, and to open up new markets in other parts of the world. The products of the fisheries, the mines, and the forests are also exported to a large annual value; and the manufacturing industry is a most important and increasing one, especially in the eastern provinces, and includes almost every article that can be mentioned.

It is not necessary to extend this preface or to summarise the

* The exports of these products in 1879 were only 33½ million dollars, and the importance of the present volume of the trade may be realised when it is remembered that prices have declined, roughly, 25 per cent. in the interval.

various Reports; they must be allowed to speak for themselves. They deal with Canada as seen by practical agriculturists, and refer not only to its advantages, but to its disadvantages, for no country is without the latter in some shape or form. It may safely be said, however, that Canada has fewer drawbacks than many other parts of the world; and this is borne out by the favourable opinions that are generally expressed by the Delegation. Those who read the Reports of the farmers who visited Canada in 1879 and 1880 will realise that immense progress has been made since that time—when the vast region west of Winnipeg was only accessible by railway for a short distance, and direct communication with Eastern Canada, through British territory, was not complete. Considerable development has also taken place since 1890—when the previous Delegation visited the country.

The Canadian Government, in inviting the Delegation, wished to place, before the public, information of a reliable and independent character as to the prospects the Dominion offers for the settlement of persons desiring to engage in agricultural pursuits, and it is believed that its efforts will be as much appreciated now as they were on previous occasions. In Great Britain and Ireland the area of available land is limited, and there is a large and ever-increasing population; while at the same time Canada has only a population of about 5,000,000, and hundreds of millions of acres of the most fertile land in the world, simply waiting for people to cultivate it, capable of yielding in abundance all the products of a temperate climate for the good of mankind. It only remains to be said that any persons, of the classes to whom Canada presents so many opportunities, who decide to remove their homes to the Dominion, will receive a warm welcome in any part of the country, and will at once realise that they are not strangers in a strange land, but among fellow British subjects, with the same language, customs, and loyalty to the Sovereign, which obtain in the Old Country.

For general information about Canada, advice to intending Emigrants, and a description of the Canadian Agricultural and Dairy Exhibits at Chicago, see Appendices (pages 85 to 96):

In addition to the Reports of the Delegates referred to above, the Reports of Professor Long, the well-known Agricultural Expert, and of Professor Wallace (Professor of Agriculture and Rural Economy), of Edinburgh University—who visited Canada in 1893—are also available for distribution, and may be procured from any of the Agents of the Government.

THE REPORT OF MR. JOHN STEVEN,

Purroch Farm, Hurlford, Ayrshire, N.B.

HAVING received the honour, in August, 1893, of being selected by Sir Charles Tupper as one of the tenant farmer delegates appointed to visit Canada and report on the suitability of that wide Dominion as a field of emigration for British farmers, I, in company with several other members of the Delegation, set sail from Liverpool for Montreal on the 17th of the month already mentioned. We reached Montreal on Saturday, the 26th, and stayed there over Sunday. In accordance with the arrangements that had been made for us, we left the city on the following Monday, the 28th of August. Arriving at Ottawa in the afternoon, we called at the offices of the Minister of the Interior for maps, instructions, &c., in connection with our future journey of investigation.



EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA

*Experimental
Farms.*

Mr. Daly, the Minister of the Interior, being away on a visit to the North-West at the time, we were received by Mr. Burgess, Deputy-Minister. Mr. Burgess made arrangements for our visiting in the first place the Central Experimental Farm, near Ottawa. We were accompanied by Mr. Fortier, of the Government offices, who introduced

each of us to the heads of the several departments connected with the establishment. The officers are Mr. William Saunders, director, who was absent from home; Mr. James W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner and agriculturist; and Mr. F. F. Shutt, chemist, who was analysing soil from British Columbia when we called. We were at the same time introduced to Mr. John Craig, horticulturist, and Mr. A. G. Gilbert, poultry manager. There are five experimental farms located throughout the Dominion, the idea in having them in different parts of the country being the better to adapt the teaching to the varying climate, soil, and altitude of the country. As a standing monument to the foresight and wisdom of the Canadian Government, these experimental farms are a marked success. In carrying out experimental work in connection with farming, an increasing interest is being manifested by farmers all over the Dominion, in proof of which I can refer to the fact that, whereas four years ago from 5,000 to 10,000 copies of reports supplied the demand, now 40,000 are required. This demand exists because the farmer gets the knowledge he needs in connection with all the departments of his calling. There is also a distribution of seed grain of improved varieties; and to show how this advantage is appreciated, last year the number of samples distributed was 16,905. These samples were of 3 lbs. each, amounting in all to $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons of grain. Amongst them were 5,384 samples of oats, 3,954 samples of barley, 719 of peas, 36 of rye, 1,545 of Indian corn, and 1,278 samples of potatoes. Besides the testing of grain for seed purposes and the improvement of approved varieties, experiments in connection with testing cattle food for milk and beef production, investigation into insect pests, with a view to check their ravages, and so on, are prosecuted in a scientific way by picked experts, each in a separate department. Dairying is a special feature in this establishment, and in consequence a great improvement has taken place in the quality of butter and cheese in Canada during the last few years.

Our next move was to Winnipeg, where we called upon *Winnipeg*. Commissioner Smith, of the Dominion Land Offices, and received instructions with regard to our route. Mr. Cox, of the Crown Forest Department, a very energetic and capable conductor, was appointed to chaperon us through the vast extent of country west of Winnipeg. The city of Winnipeg is the chief city of Manitoba, and one of the principal cities of Canada. It forms the great commercial centre of a country of nearly two thousand millions of acres of rich territory, and is the seat of government and the fountain-head of the educational institutions of not only Manitoba, but the whole North-West. The progress of Winnipeg has been quite phenomenal. A few years ago it was only a lonely trading post of the Hudson Bay Company, called Fort Garry; now it is a city of nearly 30,000 inhabitants, with visible evidence of great future expansion. On driving through the city I was much impressed by the good streets, substantial structures, handsome public buildings, and suburban residences, all indicating enterprise, wealth, and public spirit. Driving out to Silver Heights, I had the pleasure of seeing Sir Donald Smith's home farm, in one of the fields of which were grazing at leisure and

contentment the last living specimens of the old buffaloes of Canada. Afterwards driving in a circuitous direction through the locality, we got back to Winnipeg well pleased with our first outing in the province of Manitoba.

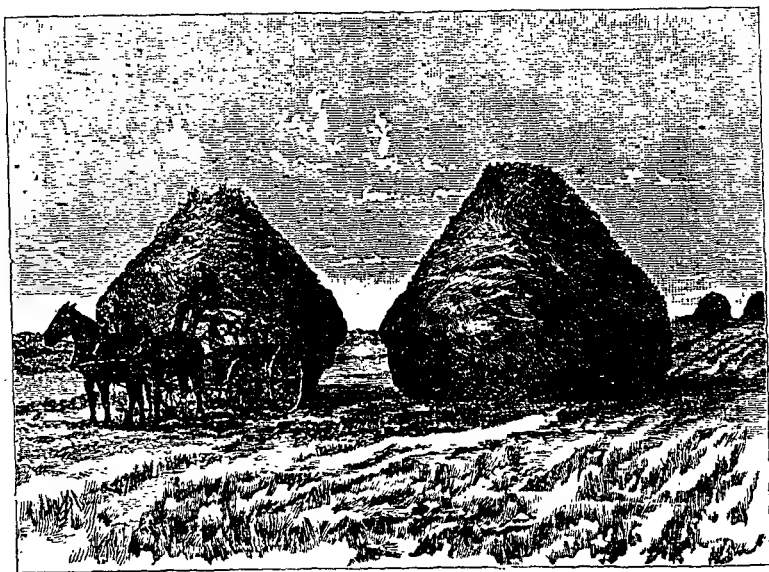


WINNIPEG

Portage-la-Prairie. Next morning a commencement was made in earnest to spy out the land west of Winnipeg. Portage-la-Prairie was the centre of investigations. It is one of the most enterprising cities of the plains, and now has a population of nearly 4,000. It is about 60 miles distant from Winnipeg, straight west. In the course of our first drive we noticed a farmer putting a traction engine and threshing mill in order at his place, and thinking a good opportunity presented itself of interviewing him, we made our approach. He expressed his pleasure at seeing farmers from the Old Country, and offered to show us around, and give us a share of his hospitality. His name, he said, was Brydon, and he was a native of Roxburghshire. He settled in Manitoba 18 years ago, and has stuck to the district ever since. His farm consists of 320 acres, half of which was given as a grant from Government, and the other half paid for by him at a nominal figure. His small capital was expended in stocking the place after a certain manner, and he had to borrow money to enable him to reap his first crop. The land he owns is now worth £6 an acre. He and his family are almost able to work the place among themselves. After everything has been reckoned up, he can still realise \$10 an acre from wheat-growing, and he is able to dispose of several head of cattle throughout the year. Taking all in all, we were pleased with our first visit to a really good Manitoban farm.

Threshing. As a consequence of the enormous breadth of corn crops growing throughout Western Canada, one of the leading features in connection with the farm work of that part of the Dominion is threshing the corn crop. Next day,

seeing a mill at work a short distance from the track while we were out driving, at my suggestion our conductor ordered the driver to pull up. Oats were being threshed, and at a speed which I considered astonishing. The charges here for threshing are 5 cents per bushel for wheat, and 4 cents for oats. On asking the average



WHEAT STACKS, MANITOBA.

results of a day's work, we were told that from 1,500 to 2,000 bushels were considered to be near the mark, but that a great deal more had been done. Many people will think this too high a record, but it must be taken into account that the grain is cut high up the stalk, and, consequently, contains more to the bulk of straw than in Scotland. Each mill has a register for tallying the quantity of grain it delivers. The average price in this district of a good mill is about £360, all complete. A few farmers possess mills of their own. Speaking generally, however, the mills are hired out, as at home, and hands go along with them to assist in the work.

On the Manitoba and North-Western Line.

Another day we visited the Lake of the Woods Flour Mill and Elevator, which erection forms one of the principal sights of the neighbourhood. It is managed by a Mr. Thomson, who does the buying and selling, and he kindly showed us all over the place. On leaving Portage-la-Prairie that morning, Mr. Rutherford, who practises as a veterinary surgeon, joined our party. He is a member of the Manitoban Parliament. We found him a valuable acquisition. In addition to him, we had Mr. Thomson, who knows the district well,

and with whom I drove. Mr. Cox, our resourceful conductor, had arranged our route with the view of our arriving at Westbourne before dark, and of allowing us to see by the way a few typical farms of the plains. We lunched at a certain farm place where Mr. Rutherford had a horse case to attend to. After our repast we sallied out, and saw three self-binders at work cutting the yellow corn. It was more of a mixed farm than any we had yet seen, there being both sheep and cattle raised on it.

A Successful Ayrshire Farmer. I was very much surprised when I found that this large farm belonged to an Ayrshire man, a Mr. McCartney, who left Cumnock district about 24 years ago, and who knew a good many people I know. He had this season 300 acres of wheat, and a large

timothy meadow. He makes it no secret that he is doing very well. Taking me aside, we had a long chat together regarding cost of labour, price of wheat, amount of capital required, &c. He told me that 23 bushels of wheat was his average production last year, and that 30 bushels is a big average. When Mr. McCartney landed in Canada he had only \$30 of his own, and after working as a labouring man in Ontario for a number of years, he came here and took up this place, where he has succeeded well. His dwelling-house is a capital one, and he now owns the farm clear of debt. He has, he told me, wrought himself into a position to which he says he could not have attained in the Old Country. In answer to the question how it came that some farmers who began with capital failed to do any good in Canada, he said that men coming here with capital from the Old Country are often too wise to learn anything, and too rich to take advice. They generally make the blunder of buying land without using proper discrimination, and then selling at a loss, doing the same thing repeatedly until the money has disappeared; whereas a man who has a little capital to lose generally fights a harder battle, and in nine cases out of ten succeeds.

Another Good Farm. We next visited a neighbouring farm belonging to a Mr. James Bray, who farms 700 acres of land. He has 620 acres of wheat this season, and also 80 acres

of timothy. He started 15 years ago with a capital of \$350, and now owns the farm, and a live stock consisting of 26 head of Jersey cows, 14 graded milk cows, 17 horses, 20 sheep, and 30 pigs. He gave us a similar opinion of things in Canada to what Mr. McCartney did. Being on the borders of prairie land which is not yet cultivated, we had the opportunity of seeing a portion of land being reclaimed. The prairie plough is larger than the common one, and is drawn by a team of four horses. It is as sharp as a knife, so as to cut the scrub. After being turned over the soil is harrowed. Then the surface rubbish is gathered, and the soil ploughed again, after which it is sown with wheat.

A Stock Farm. Leaving here, we next visited a ranch, or stock farm, owned by a Mr. Lynch, who possesses a small herd of pure-bred Shorthorns. Here we unhitched our horses, fed them, and had tea ourselves with Mr. Lynch. He sent his niece out on horseback to round up a few of the cattle, and in about half

an hour she had them in the enclosure ready for inspection. We found them, as our friend the "vet." said, a very good lot, and in good condition, without having received any other food than prairie grass. On our return drive we passed a great many Indian tents. Being interested in the Indian, and his relationship to the settlers, I learned on inquiries that they are now a very civil and harmless people. Mr. Cox, who knows the red people well, said the Indians of these parts are mostly of the Cree tribe, though largely mixed up with the Sioux. At this season of the year these original inhabitants of Canada leave their respective reservations and take harvest work, making fairly good hands, though receiving much less pay than Europeans do. The Indian population of Canada numbers about 123,000. The people are located on reserves in different parts of the country. There is a special department of State to administer Indian affairs, and the Indians are not only now peaceable, but fairly contented and happy. There are, according to statistics which I have in my possession, 7,554 children being educated in the day, boarding, and industrial schools, established off and within the different reserves. These schools number 268. The boys attending the industrial schools are taught trades, farming, and ordinary branches of education; and the girls sewing, knitting, and other useful knowledge.

The Sanford Ranch. In the Westbourne district, practically, begins the region of mixed farming and cattle-raising along the lines of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway system. From this point west we traversed a country of greater diversity of natural features than is exhibited in the great plains to the east. Before leaving Westbourne we visited the home farm of what is known as the Sanford Ranch. We met Mr. Davis, the manager, who kindly showed us round the farm. Mr. Davis is also agent for Mr. Sanford, who has 80,000 acres of land for sale. When we came across him he was employed digging a basketful of potatoes for dinner, the varieties being, he said, Early Rose and White Elephant. Taking us to the horse boxes, he showed us a good Hackney stud horse imported from Yorkshire; also, an old stud horse, a cross between a Cleveland Bay and a "Royal George" mare. We were shown a herd of young horses off the old stud horse, which were driven into the farm enclosure by a cowboy, and they appeared to be a very good lot. Two or three of them, however, had got wounded by running against a barbed wire fence during a stampede caused by a thunder-storm. Two of them were killed by lightning, two were severely cut by the wire, and others injured more or less. Mr. Davis, in consequence, is dead against barbed wire as a fence for horses. After viewing the horses, we were next shown the piggery, which is of considerable dimensions. The varieties of pigs consist of Tamworths, Berkshires, and Yorkshires. We saw a good specimen of a Tamworth boar. The price of pork here is \$4½ per 100 lbs., live weight, delivered at the nearest town or station. In answer to the question as to whether cattle-ranching did not pay in the locality, Mr. Davis seemed to think that horses did better. He thought a large herd of cattle trod down

the grass which required to be cut in order to keep them over the winter, and this caused the farmer to go a long distance to cut his hay, consequently the haulage added considerably to the expenses. Asked if the hay portion of the ranch could not be fenced in, he seemed to have overlooked this fact, and remarked that it might do if the expense could be afforded. My own opinion is that cattle-raising is the most advisable pursuit, as horses are getting cheaper in Canada, owing, no doubt, to the fact that electric tram-cars are the order of the day there, and that winter keep for horses is expensive in proportion to cattle keep; but Mr. Davis appears to favour his own hobbies of horse-breeding and pig-raising. Barley, he says, never fails here, and is a good kind of food for both horses and pigs, and it can be sown as late as the 1st of June.

Our conversation at this point was interrupted by Mr.

*The Beautiful
Plains.*

Cox, our energetic conductor of the expedition, who informed us that it was train time; so we took the hint, bundled up, and got on the train for the town of

Neepawa, which is situated in the fine wheat tract of the "Beautiful Plains." After passing through a mixed country for about two hours, we arrived all right, and were met at the station by Mr. Davidson, hardware merchant and general storekeeper, who is the member for this district, in the Manitoban Parliament. He also owns a farm near at hand, and knows the district well. This part of the country is 10 years settled, but the town of Neepawa is younger. It contains 1,200 inhabitants, and is a very clean-looking place, likely to turn out a large town soon. In order to see the district, a double buggy was hired, which held the seven of us, including Mr. Davidson. The country, though comparatively level, is rather more undulating than the Portage-la-Prairie district. After going three or four miles out of the town, we came to a fine wheat country, where the land is heavier than near Neepawa. Dropping in at a farm-house where a Mr. Donald Fraser lived, to whom my co-delegate from Scotland had a letter of introduction, we found he was from home. But, by chance, we fell in with a Mr. Monroe, a farmer situated a little further along the way, and had a long chat with him, in the course of which he treated us to a Yankee farmer's experience in Canada.

*An American
Farmer's
Opinion of
Manitoba.*

Mr. Monroe is a Yankee bred and born, though he says he is of Highland descent, which his name would seem to bear out. Mr. Monroe said he came to his farm in 1889, from New York State, with a capital of only \$235. In 1891 he bought half of the farm for \$4,500, and later on the other half for \$1,600.

He had, he informed us, 225 acres in wheat, 30 acres in oats, and 15 acres under barley. Being an exact book-keeper, Mr. Monroe was able to give us a lucid insight regarding expenses of labour, cost of production, &c. He told us that, including interest on capital, it cost him \$6.69 to produce an acre of wheat. He reckons 19 bushels of wheat as last season's average return per acre, for which he received 55 cents per bushel at the nearest elevator. Last year he had a poor crop. This season he expects 25 bushels an acre, and thinks

we may take this as an average for the district. In regard to work, he told us that four horses in a plough could turn over 5 acres a day, and he reckons it costs him 60 cents an acre for ploughing (though the contract cost is \$1, or 100 cents, per acre). Mr. Monroe has a large family, the three eldest of which help him on the farm. He has also one man employed continuously throughout the year; besides two additional men for eight months. In wages he pays \$20 a month for eight months, besides board; \$10 a month, and board, is the ordinary winter rate. Mr. Monroe has a capital lot of imported horses from England, one of which he uses for stud purposes. In proof of how a man of skill and energy can succeed here, we may state that Mr. Monroe now values his assets at \$22,000. In regard to mixed farming, Mr. Monroe thinks it ought to pay better than continuous wheat-growing, but want of capital prevents the general adoption of that system. Mr. Monroe has, besides wheat and oats, 3 acres of onions, of which he has at times raised as many as 500 bushels per acre. He has also 120 acres of meadow hay. On being asked his opinion in regard to farming in Manitoba as compared with the States, he expressed a decided opinion that Manitoba is better suited to both the man of capital and the man of small means; that the climate is not so hot as in the States; that the land is richer; and that there are other points in which Canada has the advantage.

Next day we had a call from Mr. Donald Fraser, whom we found from home on the previous day. He owns a farm of 800 acres near Mr. Monroe's place. Out of this, 500 acres are cultivated under wheat and oats.

Mr. Fraser has been in his farm 11 years, and has been very successful, his experience being somewhat similar to Mr. Monroe's. On the following day, at the request of Mr. Davidson, M.P.P., we drove out to his square-mile section about seven miles from Neepawa, and saw what might be properly called a mixed farm. He is fitting up a large shed of 70 ft. long and 60 ft. wide for holding hay, chopped stuff, and bruised grain. There is also a slip in one of the corners capable of holding 150 tons of ensilage. Mr. Davidson estimates the cost of this erection at \$2,500. He considers it as a sufficient reason for his going into mixed farming that good fair cattle can be bought in the fall for something like \$20 each, and which can, as a rule, be sold for \$56 in spring. Placed along the side of this large byre is the piggery, made to hold 80 pigs, with suitable accommodation for breeding purposes. His intention is in the future to use the greater part of his wheat and barley for feeding stock, instead of selling the whole of it at the present low prices. In making this attempt to solve the problem of mixed farming, Mr. Davidson considers he is acting in the interest of the farming community, a considerable number of whom believe it to be the most profitable way of getting along in Manitoba. This system has the advantage of enabling the farmer to let the land have more of a variety of cropping, and of allowing it to lie longer in pasture, instead of being obliged to follow an almost continuous course of wheat production, which must sooner or later exhaust the land. On talking this question over with a good many farmers hereabouts, the chief drawback

urged is the want of sufficient capital. Farmers about here generally began on the homestead principle with hardly any money, and consequently it is only a few who can afford sufficient capital to make mixed farming a success. A great many are under the belief that the most suitable tract for mixed farming is in the region of Alberta, which is further west. There the cattle are allowed to roam at will all winter, with but little supervision. This advantage is no doubt of considerable importance; but I have learned from several cattle dealers that they can well afford to give the Manitoba farmer \$5 more for a beast that is domesticated, as it loses less in condition on transportation to the Eastern markets than one which has been allowed to roam half wild on the prairie, as they take more kindly to their food during the railway journey.

Returning to our hotel from this pleasant visit, we came across a Scotchman named George Laidler, originally from Berwickshire, whose father rents a farm there of 600 acres. Mr. Laidler was walking on the road opposite his house, and we came upon him quite accidentally. He told us his farm included 640 acres of land, 250 acres of which is wheat this year. On our asking him about financial matters, he seemed disinclined to volunteer much information, but said he began with only \$425. We found out afterwards that he had done very well in the 15 years he had farmed in Manitoba. Bidding him good-bye, we made for town.

Next day we left Neepawa for Minnedosa, at a distance of about 26 miles. The route we took was through a country of an undulating nature and of diversified appearance, with good natural hay meadows, and apparently adapted for mixed farming. It seemed, however, to be not so well suited for wheat-raising, as we saw very little indication of extensive cropping. On our arrival at the beautiful little town, which is snugly situated in a pleasant hollow surrounded by belts of wood and hills, we were introduced to Mr. Fairbairn, the Mayor, and to some others connected with the municipality.

After luncheon, we visited the farm of a Mr. Fraser, who lives in the town, and who drove along with us. He owns 1,500 acres of land about seven miles from

Minnedosa, and is going into mixed farming. He recently built one of the largest sheds for hay and cattle in the province, at a cost of between \$2,000 to \$3,000. He believes mixed farming will pay well. The shed referred to is 141 ft. long and 58 ft. wide. He has farmed for 12 years. He intends, he says, to feed 100 head of cattle each winter, and thinks it will pay him much better than wheat-raising. Mr. Fraser came from Ireland. It seems to be a current saying here that an Englishman in Canada has a good dwelling-house, but a poor barn; a Scotchman a good barn, but a poor house; a Dutchman a good house and a good barn; and an Irishman a poor house and a poor barn, but generally a good bank account. In this case we found that the saying did not hold good, seeing both dwelling-house and barn were superior to almost anything we had hitherto seen.

And in so far as bank account is concerned, Mr. Fraser admits, if he were selling out, he would consider he made a bad bargain if his assets did not reach £6,000 sterling.

Through the kindness of Mr. Cox, I was at this time provided with a North-West farmer's profit and loss account, being a document recently supplied by Mr. Monroe (a gentleman formerly interviewed) to the Patrons' Advocate of Manitoba, a copy of which I subjoin:—

The farm contains 640 acres, located eight miles north of Neepawa. On basis of sales in locality it is worth \$20 per acre. On this interest is charged at 8 per cent., while on animals and machinery 12 per cent. is allowed for interest and depreciation. With the exception of this year (1892), the average yield of wheat has been 30 bushels per acre. Lowest price, 55 cents; highest, 85 cents per bushel. Our help is hired by the month, for the season. Each operation on the farm is charged actual cost for wages and maintenance. There were 200 acres in wheat this year. Average yield, 19 bushels per acre; none of it fallow.

Wheat Crop.—200 acres, at 19 bushels per acre. No. 1 hard, at 55 cents per bushel, \$10.45 per acre.

Ploughing, per acre	...	...	...	...	...	\$1.00
Harrowing and rolling	...	...	...	...	...	0.40
Seed, 1½ bushels	...	...	...	...	...	0.90
Seeding	...	...	...	...	...	0.15
Cord	...	...	...	...	...	0.26
Harvesting and stooking	...	...	...	...	...	0.22
Stacking	...	...	...	...	...	0.40
Threshing 19 bushels, at 6 cents	...	...	...	...	...	1.14
Marketing 19 bushels, at 2½ cents	...	...	...	...	...	0.52
Interest, taxes, repairs, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1.70

Total cost \$6.69

Total return from 1 acre \$10.45

Total cost of production 6.69

Profit, per acre, above interest \$3.76

Equal to 18.8 per cent. on investment.

Hay Crop.—120 acres yield 172½ tons.

Value of hay, 172½ tons, at \$5 \$862.50

Cost of mowing, raking, and stacking, at 70 cents per ton 120.75

\$741.75

Value, per acre, on 120 acres \$6.18

Less interest, taxes, &c. 1.70

Net profit, per acre, above interest \$4.48

Equal to 22.4 per cent. on investment.

The hay is natural grasses. Has been cut every year for the past 10 or 12 years. We begin mowing from July 25th to August 1st. Since the farm has been in my possession (four years), the crop has been better each successive year. The crop is not all sold yet, but the portion sold has been \$5 per ton, in stack. None has ever been sold at less, while that kept till spring has usually brought from \$2 to \$3 per ton more. For next year we have for wheat 250 acres, nearly all rolled and harrowed, 130 acres of it breaking, 80 acres for summer fallow, 30 acres for oats, potatoes, &c

Prophecies and Actual Results. This shows how unwise it is to prophesy, and how fallible the best judges are. I may remark, with reference to the above statement of Mr. Monroe, that the two most capable gentlemen, Messrs. Read and Pell, who acted as Assistant Commissioners to the last Royal Commission on the Depression of Agriculture—the one presided over by the Duke of Richmond—and who in that capacity visited the United States and Canada, declared that wheat could never be grown in America at a profit under the price of 40s. a quarter, so that British farmers need never contemplate a minimum rate of anything much below 45s. a quarter. Ever since—some 12 or 15 years ago—the price has been steadily declining, yet leaving a margin of profit to men situated as Mr. Monroe is. Were high prices now to rule for a year or two, what profits these men would make! If they can live now, they would surely be very prosperous then.

Taking train from Minnedosa, the next point of investigation was the Russell district. Travelling by Binscarth, we drove from there to Russell, a distance of about 12 miles. Russell, a town a little west from Minnedosa, is better adapted both for cattle and mixed farming than for wheat. Hay is plentiful, and the stock we saw were in a thriving condition. The appearance of the grass is not good, but somehow or other the cattle are fat. One would think, judging from their condition, that they were getting oil-cake. The first place we called at in the neighbourhood was Mr. Wm. Custar's, who owns 320 acres; 180 of which are under cultivation. He came to the place 10 years ago, with very little capital. He homesteaded one-quarter of it, and took up the rest by right of pre-emption: that is to say, he obtained a Government free grant of land on condition that he built a house, and broke up and cropped a certain area of virgin soil; after which he had the first claim, at a nominal price, to the remaining parts of the half-section upon which he had settled. The following are the prices in his district of the principal agricultural products:—Heifers, \$27; 14 cents per lb. for dressed bacon; 14 cents per lb. for butter; wheat, last year, 49 cents per bushel; year before, 74 to 80 cents. The average yield of wheat is from 20 to 24 bushels per acre. Each cow yields about 9 lbs. of butter per week. Mr. Custar employs one boy to assist him during the year, and has an extra man for six weeks in harvest. The man's wages are \$1½ per day, and board. A man's wages for the year would run at the rate of from \$22 to \$26 per month, with board. There is no homestead land to take up now in this quarter. Virgin land sells at about \$5 per acre, according to quality. Mr. Custar estimates his property now as being worth altogether about \$6,000.

We next visited Dr. Barnardo's Farm Home for boys. It lies about four miles from Russell. Dr. Barnardo got a grant from the Dominion Government of 12 square miles of country. He sends out annually drafts of boys from his London Homes—as many as from 70 to 100 in a year—and gives the lads a year's training on the farm, after

which they are supposed to be able to do for themselves. We were shown round by the establishment manager, Mr. Struthers, and by Mr. Blythe, superintendent of the farm. Mr. Struthers accompanied us in our drive round the country also. Seventy milk cows and two bulls—one being a fine Shorthorn—are kept on the farm, 600 acres of which are under crop, 100 of them being in wheat, the rest being equally divided between oats, barley, rye, and turnips; 70 acres are summer-fallowed each year. In connection with the farm is a creamery, which absorbs all the milk of the establishment, and also a large quantity from the farms of the surrounding district. The output of butter is 270 lbs. a day in summer, and a good market is found for it on the Pacific Coast. I tasted the butter, and found it good in quality. The following prices are given farmers for milk:—In the early part of summer, 60 cents per 10 gallons; and later on, 70 to 80 cents. During winter the milk comes in frozen, and is paid for at the rate of 85 cents per 100 lbs. The turnips on the farm this year are not a large crop; what we saw was the result of a third seeding.

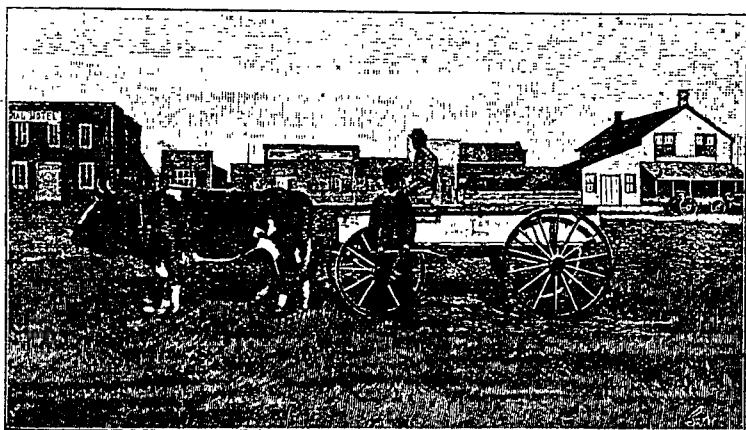
*Farms in the
Assessipi
District.*

From Russell we drove in the afternoon to a little town called Assessipi, on the Shell River. It contains a flour and saw mill, a store, and a few workmen's houses. It is beautifully situated in low-lying ground, surrounded by hills. On our way there we called on a

Mr. Seaters, who farms 320 acres. He took up this place nine years ago, and has 160 acres in crop; and says he has done very well indeed since. Across the Shell River the country is devoted entirely to cattle-grazing, for which it seems well suited. Grass is both good and plentiful along the river frontage. There are 30 miles of land to the north of Assessipi, bounded on the one side by the Shell River, and on the other by the Assiniboine, still open for homesteading. The distance between the rivers is from 9 to 15 miles. Having to return to Russell, we retraced our steps, and on the way back called on a Mr. James Smith, who sets apart his farm of 160 acres for grazing purposes. He showed us a fine lot of cattle, with one of which he took a first prize at Winnipeg this spring. Arriving once more at Assessipi, we were entertained to tea by Mr. J. A. Gill, who owns the mill there. He is building an hotel alongside. We were much struck with the elegance of the interior of the house, and the courtesy with which we were received. Mr. Gill has been here for nine years, and intends to stay. Getting back to our hotel at Russell, I was called upon by a Scotchman named James Mitchell, who originally came from near Glasgow. He owns 640 acres, and has been seven years in the district. Cattle-raising is his special style of management, and he thinks the land and climate will suit turnip-raising, and is going in for that in future. He says a man coming to his quarter needs a little capital, even though he should "homestead."

Taking train from Russell at three o'clock next morning, Carberry. we arrived at Carberry about noon. It is the centre of a fine wheat country, which is all taken up. It is as level as the Portage district. A good many Scotchmen have farms here. On our way there by train, while waiting at Birtle for an hour,

I was called upon by two Scotchmen—one a Mr. Legget, and the other a Mr. Drummond. They were very anxious that I should inspect the Birtle country on my own account, and catch up the others at Carberry, but I found the distance too great for my doing so. Both gentlemen are getting along exceedingly well, and praise the district very much. On the following morning we made our usual round of investigation. We visited a Mr. White's farm—a very good one indeed, and considered a model. Mr. White took first prize for wheat last year at Winnipeg. On the whole, we were well pleased with what we saw there.



A CROFTER'S OX TEAM

More Successful Farmers. We next pulled up at a farm belonging to a Mr. G. Barron, which is about eight miles from Carberry. He also has done well in the district. We then visited a farmer named James Ruckle, who owns 160 acres of land, which is all under crop this year. He homesteaded 14 years ago, with a capital of \$800. This season he reckons up his crop at 25 bushels of wheat to the acre, and 55 of oats. One of the special features of this district is timothy fields—an indication that mixed farming is going to be the order of the day. Farmers are a long distance from natural prairie hay, the land being all cultivated far out on each side. Two tons of timothy hay per acre can be easily got. At one place we saw nearly 100 tons in three stacks. We next visited Mr. A. McKenzie's large farm, where we saw operations carried out on a large scale. Mr. McKenzie has a wide area under hand, and has been going in for mixed farming for a long time. He has 55 young horses, all going in one lot, which was quite a sight to us. He also feeds pigs

very extensively, and they are said to pay well. Mr. McKenzie not being at home, we were shown round by the foreman. After taking luncheon, we drove back by another route, and returned much pleased with our day's outing. On the whole, we considered this district about the best we had yet seen.

After parting with the gentlemen who accompanied us, *Brandon.* one of whom was a Scotchman from the neighbourhood of

Paisley, we left Carberry about 7 o'clock, and arrived about bed-time at Brandon, the second city of Manitoba. Taking a walk round next morning, we found Brandon quite a large place. It has large and handsome buildings, well-made streets, and a great number of large grain elevators and mills. The town has only been 12 years in existence, but it has already a population of 6,000. It is one of the points on the Canadian Pacific line where time is broken. Between Montreal and Vancouver, so long is the distance that four hours have to be disposed of between the standard time of the two places. There is Eastern time, Central time, Mountain time, and Western time. At Brandon, Mountain time begins, and an extra hour has then to be taken into account by the western-bound traveller, or dropped out of his reckoning by the east-going one.

The Government Experimental Farm. Brandon has the largest market for grain in Manitoba. While there we visited the Government Experimental Farm. It is conducted on the same lines as the one at Ottawa. The manager, Mr. Bedford, received us all with great courtesy, and showed us round the several departments of the establishment. The farm con-

tains 600 acres, which are divided into separate experimental portions, on which various crops are grown, under the conditions peculiar to the district, with a view to finding out the most profitable course of farming to adopt. In the museum attached there are 60 different kinds of grasses, both native and cultivated, with their analyses clearly notified. There are also all sorts of cultivated grass suitable to Manitoba. We saw oats 42 lbs. and 44 lbs. per bushel, which had been selected from a crop averaging 80 bushels per acre. Going the round of the byres, we saw good Shorthorn cattle, among them a good Shorthorn bull, also a good Ayrshire bull, which was perhaps a little coarse in the head. In the stable we saw a good specimen of the Clydesdale horse, named "Sir Arthur," bred by J. Woodrow, Pennylee, Kilbarchan, and foaled in 1888—sire, "Prince Adino" (5255); grandsire, "Prince of Wales." After expressing ourselves satisfied with all we had seen, we bade Mr. Bedford, the manager, good-bye, and went back into Brandon.

A Manitoba Saw-Mill. On our way we visited the saw-mill establishment of Mr. J. A. Christie, a Scotchman. Mr. Christie being from home, we were shown through this large place by his manager. The capacity of this large mill is 6,000,000 ft., board measure, per season of 6½ months. The wholesale price of wood here is \$16 per 1,000 ft. The timber is

floated down the Assiniboine River for nearly 1,000 miles. We could see it blocked back as close as it could lie for nearly half a mile. The manner in which it is handled is very interesting. A hook is fixed into the end of a log, which is hauled up by a chain elevator on to a bench, where it is at once made ready to run up the large circular saw. So quickly is the work done, that we calculated the speed the saw went through the wood as at the rate of an ordinary walk. As soon as the rough boards are cut they are dried, then squared and dressed by means of another saw, and last of all they are put through a planing machine, after which they are stored in large square lots nearly as high as the roof of an ordinary house. The amount of planed wood stored here would surprise some of our wood merchants, as also would the expedition with which the work is done.

The same day, during lunch in our hotel, I happened to *Education.* fall in with a man of the name of Dodds. On entering into conversation with him, he told me he was secretary and treasurer of a school board at a town called Melita. He gave me a great deal of information regarding public education in Manitoba and Canada generally. Free education is provided in all the provinces of Canada, and the rates are levied by local councils similar to what we have at home. The details differ a little in the various provinces, and the system may be described as follows:—Every township is divided into sections sufficiently large for a school. Trustees are elected to manage the affairs, and the local rates are supplemented by Government grants. The schools are only two miles from each other where the country is settled; and where religious opinions differ, separate schools are built to satisfy sentimental considerations. On the whole, the system of education in the Dominion is in many ways similar to what we have at home.

When on the point of leaving Brandon and making *A Kilarnock* for the station, I was much surprised to hear my name called from the opposite side of the street by a *Man.* man in a buggy. I went over, and found him to be my old friend Mr. Mutter, late saddler in Portland Street, Kilarnock. He said he was just going out to see his cattle. He keeps 20 milk cows, and appeared to be getting along very well. We were compelled, however, to bid each other good-bye almost simultaneously with salutation of welcome.

Area of Manitoba is a wonderful province. It is nearly as large as *Manitoba.* Great Britain and Ireland put together. It is bounded on the north by large lakes teeming with fish, and further west by the Riding and Duck Mountains, carrying extensive forests of poplar, spruce, and other varieties of trees. The open prairie lands leading to the south and east form one large fertile plain, embracing about 500 townships of 36 square miles, through which run many rivers, each with a belt of timber along its banks. Perhaps three-fourths of the land of Manitoba is fit for cultivation, the remaining portion forming the river valleys, bluffs, and high grounds, timber belts, sloughs, and lakes.

The soil is fertile, and requires as yet no artificial manure. It is a rich, deep black mould or loam, resting on a rather tenacious clay undersoil, and capable of producing the finest wheat in the world: it is the accumulation of decayed vegetation for centuries, intermixed with the ashes of prairie fires. In depth it varies from 15 to 20 inches; but along the river valleys it is often 2 feet and more in depth. The soil of Manitoba is well suited for vegetable production; potatoes, cabbages, turnips, beets, mangolds, and cauliflowers all grow most luxuriantly.

The climate of Manitoba is warm in summer and cold in winter, but withal one of the healthiest in the world. On interviewing farmers regarding the cold in winter, I found few of them object to it, on account of the dry atmosphere making it less felt than were a moist atmosphere to prevail. Instead of the perpetual winter so much talked about, so far as I could learn, only about $4\frac{1}{2}$ months is the extent on the average. The closing and opening of the navigation at Montreal and Toronto for the last five years are as follows:—

Montreal.	Closed.	Opened.	Toronto.	Closed.	Opened.
1887-88 ...	Dec. 23rd.	April 29th.	1887-88 ...	Dec. 24th.	April 11th.
1888-89 ...	" 14th.	" 14th.	1888-89 ...	" 20th.	March 15th.
1889-90 ...	" 29th.	" 14th.	1889-90 ...	" 30th.	" 15th.
1890-91 ...	" 3rd.	" 14th.	1890-91 ...	" 28th.	" 20th.
1891-92 ...	" 17th.	" 13th.	1891-92 ...	Jan. 5th, 1892.	" 31st.

The North-West Territories.

Indian Head, a place of about 400 inhabitants, which is situated 180 miles west from Brandon, in the territory of Assiniboia, was our next destination. It is the centre of an immense wheat district, which is almost as level as a floor.

Government Experimental Farm.

Situated near this town is another Government Experimental Farm, which we visited in the early forenoon. It is managed by Angus MacKay, a very practical exponent of the principles of Canadian farming. The extent of the farm is 640 acres, which have been five years under cultivation. The soil is a sandy loam, on a clay subsoil. We found the wheat first-class, and the other crops equally good. This experimental farm is conducted on a larger scale than the one at Brandon. We saw a selection of both native and foreign cultivated grasses under test as to suitability to climate and soil. We had our attention drawn to a new kind of grass, called *Bromus inermis*, said to produce $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of hay per acre, and which Mr. McKay held in high favour. We also saw barley, wheat, oats, and native seeds of all descriptions. I was much struck with the whiteness and quality of the grain, which gave evidence that the land can produce first-class quality, though the weight is a few pounds per bushel lighter than we have at home. This part is 1,800 feet above sea level.

We next visited a farm of 480 acres, belonging to Mr. W. J. Harrop, who said he left Winnipeg with \$40 in 1882, and who homesteaded part of his farm, and bought the rest at \$5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per acre. He came originally from Ontario. He said his horses and cattle cannot be estimated at less than \$1,640. He has had good annual returns off his crops.

An
Aberdonian
Farmer.

We had a similar detailed experience given from a neighbouring farmer who originally came from Aberdeenshire, and whose experience here is of 10 years' date. This part of Canada appears to be as good as any we have seen as regards wheat-raising. The wheat, which the Aberdonian was just threshing, we were told would average 40 bushels per acre. Here the straw is cut very high up, and the stubble is burned. Oats are often drilled into the soil after wheat without any ploughing. This process saves labour, and the return is generally satisfactory. A rotation of crops is, however, here being considered necessary to good farming. In this part of the Dominion farmers appear to be careful in regard to scientific methods of cultivation, as we found most farmers fallowed one-third of their arable land. This, as we all know, helps to keep the land clear of weeds, and to secure a better return. A feeling, happily, is getting prevalent all over the country that too much cultivation, if done in an insufficient sort of way, does not pay so well as thoroughly good cultivation. "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well," seems to be the spirit which is becoming more prevalent.

Mechanics
and Others
as Farmers.

Farmers who start here are not all bred to husbandry. The beginners have to feel their way, and, consequently, often have to rectify their preliminary efforts. This class often turn out well, and we came across an instance on our next visit, to a farmer called Fraser. Mr. Fraser is a Canadian born, and was bred a mechanic. He owns a section of land which is 640 acres—175 acres of wheat and oats, the rest in fallow and pasture—and at present has 80 head of cattle. He believes sheep and cattle pay best, but confesses there is a sort of fascination in connection with wheat-growing that often tempts farmers to grow it. The reasons seem to be that when the wheat seed is in the ground in spring the severe work of the farm is over until harvest, harvest operations last only a few weeks, the crop can be turned into money quickly, and there is little more to do until the following spring; whereas, on the other hand, cattle require constant attention, more especially during the winter. Mr. Fraser, however, has been connected with mixed farming all along, simply because he finds it pays him best. He thinks sheep will pay even better than cattle, and intends going into that department of farming also. He appears to have been very successful, although he owns that he has had to pay a good deal for his experience. He says that an ordinary mechanic, with a little capital to start with, can, with a little experience, succeed very well at farming here. The climate appears to be a little milder than in Manitoba, and is well adapted for cattle-raising. Land can be got in this district on the homestead principle, and as much more as is wanted at from \$3 to \$4 an acre. It is being taken up here and there all over, and before many years are past this is likely to be a well-settled district. It is well watered, and dotted all over with little belts of wood, which give shelter to cattle without interfering to any great extent with cultivation.

*The Old
Bell Farm.*

We next visited the great Bell Farm, which lies between the town of Indian Head and Qu'Appelle, a town still farther west. It is one of the gigantic affairs in the way of farming in Canada, or I might rather say it used to be; it is now divided into three large farms. Major Bell used to have 12,000 acres of wheat. It used to be run as a joint-stock affair, but the company dissolved, and it was divided into three farms, one of which is owned by Major Bell. On this farm there are still about 1,400 acres of wheat, and, as far as we can learn, it is successfully managed. Major Bell being from home when we called, we only waited a short time; visiting also the Edgley Farm of 14,000 acres, 2,000 of which are in cultivation. Land here can be bought for from \$5 to \$8 per acre, according to quality. Mr. Sykes, Stockport, Manchester, is owner of an immense estate, and willing, I understand, to sell it at some such price. This particular location, however, is said to be more suited for wheat-raising than mixed farming. After staying overnight, we drove through a country of diversified appearance, mostly Government land, ready to homestead, or to be bought at from \$3 to \$4 per acre. We found this district also well watered, and intersected by small belts of wood of nearly an acre in extent on an average. To those here who are looking for land, water is of great importance—in fact, for cattle-farming it cannot be done without. Some parts of this plain are three miles square without a single bush, all waiting the plough; other parts are as I have described.



HYDE FARM, QU'APPELLE.

The Qu'Appelle Valley.

We were now in the valley of the Qu'Appelle, on the second plateau of the continent. The district is called Assiniboia, and is, in my opinion, well suited for cattle-raising. It comprises an area of about 90,000 square miles, and very little, comparatively speaking, is taken up in cultivation except near Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Moose Jaw, and Regina. The land around Qu'Appelle and Fort Qu'Appelle is open for homesteading, and is a beautiful mixed country, well watered, wooded, and thoroughly adapted for mixed farming. This part, in my opinion, will soon be taken up, as I saw settlers' dwellings being built in all directions. Fort Qu'Appelle used to be the great centre of the Hudson Bay trade in this territory, when hunting was followed by the Red Indian, when the wild buffalo roamed the plain, and the beaver displayed its engineering faculties on the small river-courses. The great fur business that used to exist is now a thing of the past, and the traditional trapper has had to move further north, or undertake other employment. The Hudson Bay Company still have a large store here, and it forms one of the centres of trade in this part. It is managed by a Mr. McDonald, who came here in 1854 from the North of Scotland, and with whom Mr. Fraser, from Inverness, and myself stayed overnight. Mr. McDonald is quite an authority in connection with this part of the country. He has the supervision of the other centres of trade within a large area. Fort Qu'Appelle is beautifully situated in a deep and picturesque ravine. Near at hand there are large and beautiful lakes of great depth, and famous for fish. On each side of this long valley are high, bare, mountainous bluffs, reminding one of our Highland scenery.

A shooting party being organised, we were accompanied by Mr. McDonald and several others. On our way we visited the Indian Government school, which is supported by Government, and has been established six years. The school course includes technical education. Surrounding the building is a large vegetable and flower garden and wooded policies, which, besides giving ornament to the establishment, allow experiments to be conducted for the benefit of the pupils. There are nearly 200 Indian children in attendance, and the males are taught useful trades, such as carpentry, blacksmith work, farm operations, &c.; and the girls—after a certain age—sewing, knitting, and household duties. We were introduced to the principal, Father Lacombe, a French Canadian. We were shown round the establishment, and saw the cooking house, sleeping rooms, class rooms, and the general arrangements of the interior. In one of the class rooms 50 girls were receiving their usual course of lessons. When we entered this department they were all ordered to stand up, and they sang two hymns exceedingly well. Their writing exercise books were then shown to us, and these showed some excellent work. The Indian schools are under different denominational superintendence—Presbyterian, Evangelical, and Roman Catholic. This one is under the latter management. The chief idea in connection with teaching these Indian children is to make domestic servants of the girls, and tradesmen, farmers, or farm hands of the boys. The experiment, I am of opinion, is well worth a trial. Leaving

the school, we drove round the country, taking in a circuit of about 40 miles. We saw a well watered and wooded country, open for homesteading, which will no doubt soon be taken up, as all round it is a beautiful country. On our return we counted our game, and found that the party had shot between 30 and 40 prairie chickens. This bird is about the size of a grouse, and flies in much the same manner as a partridge. It provides good sport.

An Indian Reserve. Next day we went off in a north-westerly direction, taking on our way the Indian reserve, where we inspected an Indian village, occupied by representatives of the Cree and Sioux tribes. Most of the inhabitants were away harvesting. Encountering a tall, athletic specimen of the dusky-complexioned Indian, we hailed him, and got introduced by our interpreter. Opening the door of a tent the occupiers of which were absent, we saw into the interior of an Indian tepee, or tent. Altogether not the acme of orderly arrangement, an air of comfort to a certain extent pervaded, there being cooking utensils, beds, and chairs visible. We then drove along the margin of some lakes, where there is a good road, which led us back to Fort Qu'Appelle, where we arrived about 2 p.m. after a pleasant drive.

Leaving there, we got to Regina, which is the principal town in the district of Assiniboia, about 8 p.m. Next day we went round the town, which has a population of about 3,000. It is the seat of government for the North-West Territories, composed of the provincial districts of Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Athabasca. Two miles west of the town are the headquarters of the North-West Mounted Police, and beside them the Lieutenant-Governor's house, on the Wascana River. On special invitation, we visited the barracks of the Mounted Police. They are commanded by Colonel Herchmer. The force is about 800 strong, located in different stations throughout the Territories. Their chief work consists in looking after smuggling and general misdemeanour cases. On asking the colonel how defaulters could be taken in such a wide country, I was surprised that nearly all, without a single exception, were captured. People in Canada, he said, all read the papers, in most of which a general description of the man wanted is given. The culprits must appear in some town or at some farm-house, where suspicion, if well grounded, usually ends in capture. This is the reason there is so little crime in Canada. The same vigilance exists in the rural parts of most of the States, and mutual assistance is general along the border. The colonel showed us the large riding hall where drill is practised in winter. The adjoining departments consist of a large hall for gymnastics and athletic exercises, a bowling alley, canteen, and foot-drill hall. In the foot-drill hall were four recruits, who, for the first time, were being put through their facings. They appeared to be young, active men, about 26 years of age.

Next day we visited the country to the south of the town. For 10 miles or so the ground is as level as a bowling green. A great part of this land is held by speculative companies, and is being sold at from \$3 to \$5 per acre. I believe the district of Assiniboia is well adapted

for both mixed farming and wheat. It appears to be divided into two great areas, and each of these portions of country has its own peculiar characteristic, the eastern division being more adapted for wheat-raising, and the western better fitted for mixed farming and ranching. Both parts are traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Prince Albert District. We then took train to Prince Albert. The distance from Regina to Prince Albert is 240 miles. We arrived at the latter place in the early morning, and took quarters in the "Queen's" Hotel. Prince Albert is the principal town and capital of the Saskatchewan Provincial District, and is situated on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River. The North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, which have their sources in the Rocky Mountains, join 24 miles east of the town. At Prince Albert, between the two rivers, the country is well settled. Settlement began in this favoured place 15 years ago, before railways tapped the resources of the district. Prince Albert itself is an old settlement, a mission station having been established there many years ago. During the day we formed a party and took a drive of over 40 miles through a splendid country of pleasant scenery, both well wooded and watered, and well adapted for cattle-farming. I consider the land in this part capable of growing almost any crop. One turnip plot I saw on the way was really good. We visited a Mr. McKay's farm, which is over 1,000 acres, of which nearly 700 is cultivated. On his farm there is limestone, and he has built a fine concrete house. Mr. McKay is a member of the local Parliament of the North-West Territories, and takes a pride in saying that he has never travelled far out of his present district.

From there we next drove to the Red Deer Hill, on the side of which Mr. McKay's farm is located. From the top we had a splendid view of the surrounding country, and could see settlers' houses in all directions. The atmosphere being fine and clear, we could see a long distance away. The whole of this district just now is attracting a considerable amount of attention, as the opening up of the Hudson Bay route is anticipated, which, if realised, will bring Prince Albert as near to Liverpool as Toronto and some of the other large centres of the East. There is a considerable amount of land all over the country ready for homesteading. Many immigrants from Dakota, and other Western States, are here taking up land, and before many years are past land in this district is likely to rise considerably in value. Cattle-raising is, in my opinion, the best method of farming to adopt in this district; and the streams and lakes which abound here mark out the district pre-eminently as a dairying one. Cattle do not require to be housed, though farmers, as a rule, provide shelter and food for the winter. Numerous ranches are being started in Alberta, especially near Edmonton, which is close to the Rocky Mountains, and said to be milder than this part.

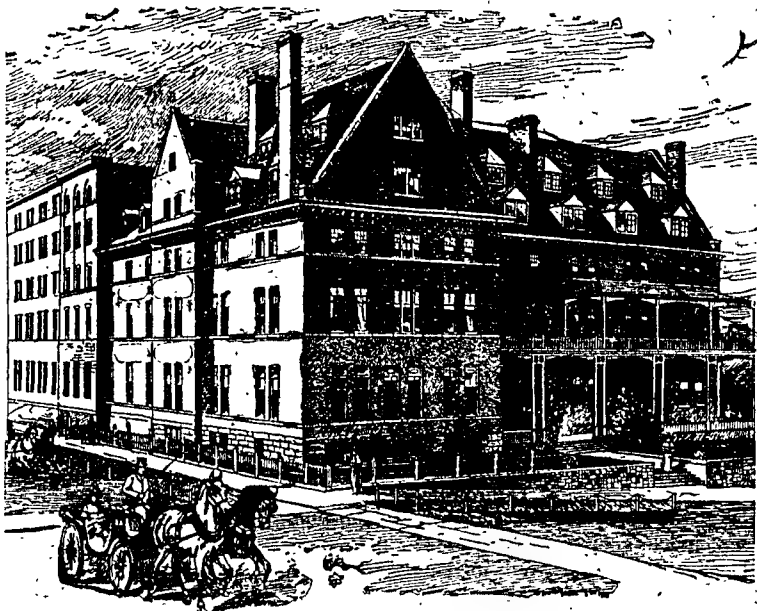
With the view of seeing the country about 25 miles from Prince Albert, where the unoccupied land is chiefly situated, we resolved to have a camping-out night; so on the Monday we started, having with us four men from the Mounted Police, and the whole paraphernalia in tent requirements. We passed through a district similar to what I have

described, crossed the Saskatchewan River on a large wood-built float, and pitched our camp near a half-breed's farm. I consider this part of the country even better than round Prince Albert, the land being more regular in character, and perhaps fully as rich in natural fertility, and well watered. As good oats as I have seen in the Dominion belonged to this half-breed. The great drawback is the distance from Prince Albert Town. A farmer who is not afraid to live a little isolated from society, and with sufficient capital to start ranching, ought to do well here. Cattle are allowed to roam all over the unoccupied land, and, as there is plenty of natural hay in the sloughs and low-lying grounds for winter feed, the settler has advantages he cannot have in a close-packed settlement. This is a land of wild fruit, game, and fish. We shot nearly 90 prairie chickens, but we had not time to go to the fish lakes, although only a few miles away. The wild fruit consists of strawberries, raspberries, and cranberries. On our journey back we drove through an Indian reservation, where a farm inspector is paid by Government to teach farming. We found harvesting going on all along the banks of the Saskatchewan. This reservation has been chosen with some judgment, as the land is good, well watered, and a great part of it clear of scrub and trees.

Next day, as we had to leave Prince Albert about seven o'clock on our way to Vancouver, and had writing and packing to do, we took an easy time of it, going round the town, visiting the lumber-mills of Messrs. Day, Hort, Macdowall & Co., and other places near. Mr. Macdowall is an Ayrshire man, and was born in Lochwinnoch. He came here about seven years ago, and has done well.

Vancouver,
British
Columbia. We arrived safely at Vancouver. Our journey over the mountains was charming beyond description. It extended nearly 500 miles from the Kananaskis Falls, in the Gap, until within a few miles of this picturesque city. In estimating this distance, one must take into account the numerous windings, which in some parts of the mountains were almost circuitous: the train often seemed to be marking the letter S; in fact, in one place we actually took a circle back, crossing over, at a higher level, the line we had already gone over. In making the journey through the mountains, the train has in many places to slow down, as a considerable amount of danger would ensue by attempting a quick speed. On our arrival in the city we took up our quarters at the Vancouver Hotel, a large and modern building constructed by the C. P. R. Company. This hotel is specially fitted up with every convenience, such as baths off each bedroom, large open spaces furnished in drawing-room fashion, and reading rooms—all intended to suit the requirements of tourists, who come here in large numbers during the summer. On taking a turn through the city after dinner, the thing that struck me most was the large areas of unbuilt property, called "city lots." In these lots are to be seen stumps of trees and other relics of the old primeval forest. In the more compactly constructed part of the city electric cars go up and down, doing a good passenger business, furnishing a tangible evidence of the enterprise and prosperity of this city of seven years of age. It already contains 18,000 inhabitants. It is worthy of

remark that seven years ago Vancouver was burnt to the ground, the devouring element leaving only one dwelling. At that time the town, however, was small, and consisted of only a few hundred inhabitants. Vancouver is the Pacific terminus of the great trans-continental railway



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY HOTEL, VANCOUVER

of Canada. It fronts on Coal Harbour, a widening of Burrard Inlet, and extends across a strip of land to English Bay, along the shores of which it is now extending. Vancouver has good natural drainage, harbour facilities, picturesqueness, and commercial advantages, and being a shipping port of considerable importance to Australia, China, and Japan, its future as well as its present prosperity is in every sense secured by the advantages mentioned. The scenery around the city is magnificent. The Cascade Mountains near at hand on the north,—the mountains at Vancouver Island, across the water, on the west,—with Mount Baker looming in the distance,—together present a most magnificent prospect.

*Agriculture
in British
Columbia.*

The agricultural resources of the large province of British Columbia are still undeveloped, though along the Fraser River valley an extensive tract of agricultural land is cultivated, some of which is still open for sale. With the view of giving us an idea of the fertility of the land along this river, the Mayor of Vancouver and party accompanied us on a round. We went by electric tramway to the town of New Westminster, a distance of 12 miles. It is on the banks of the Fraser River, and a great centre of the salmon-canning industry. On

being shown through one of the largest canning establishments, which also takes in hand fruit-preserving, we were struck by the dimensions of the place, an idea of which can be formed when I state, from authentic statistics, that last season's exportation of salmon from the Fraser River, of which trade New Westminster is the centre, was of the value of £300,000 sterling. Going on board a little steam launch at New Westminster, we passed down the Fraser River to Ladner's Landing, a distance of about 30 miles. At the fish-packing establishment John Chinaman is greatly in evidence, and the skill and despatch which he exhibits in fixing up the cans and doing other work convinces one that he is entitled to a little more consideration than he generally receives at the hands of the Anglo-Saxon. Having seen a good many Chinamen in British Columbia, and being somewhat curious to know the sum and substance of the objections against them, I find it consists in the fact that they work for less wages than others do. They spend almost nothing, and take about 80 per cent. of their earnings back with them to China. In exercising these virtues they are said to do no good to the country; therefore the cry is always leaking out at intervals, "We'll have no more of them." In spite of all remonstrances, however, John Chinaman continues to come, interferes with nobody, makes his pile, and returns home.

Ladner's Landing— After partaking of lunch at the hotel at Ladner's Landing, we had a drive over the arable district adjoining the town. Along with us we had a Mr. Fraser Valley.

Cunningham, who owns a fine farm near New Westminster. He is a North of Ireland man. Under his guidance we saw much good land, both in cultivation and lying ready for sale. I may state that land in this part of the Dominion is dearer to purchase than any which we have yet inspected, owing to the better markets existing in this province. This is caused by the fact that, comparatively speaking, little land is taken up, because of the heavy timber which abounds in most parts, and which is expensive to clear; therefore farm produce is scarce. Land sells here, according to location and quality, at from \$20 to \$150 per acre, and in the near vicinity of large towns it is as dear as in Scotland. The land along the Fraser River is alluvial, and, consequently, very rich and fertile. Mr. Cunningham told me he could raise 12 tons per acre of potatoes on an average crop, which I consider almost double what we can do at home. He also estimated an average crop of oats at 70 bushels per acre. These facts, however, apply to his own farm, which he considers a very good one. The great drawback along the Fraser Valley is a want of drainage. It must be understood that this is a moist country, and not like the great plains of Central Canada. Very nearly the same climate is experienced here as at home, with the difference that it is warmer in summer here, and milder in winter, than we are accustomed to. The rainfall is between 40 and 50 inches annually, though, of course, it varies much, in accordance with location.

Land drainage, therefore, must be the foundation of good farming in the Fraser Valley. The manner in which it is done here is with split timber laid longitudinally on side supports of the same. Tiles are

too dear for practical use, though I believe the time is not far distant when they will be in general demand. Anywhere along the valley where draining was done the altered appearance of the pasture testified to its good effect. The clover was luxuriant, and the other crops correspondingly so; better pasture, in fact, than in one field adjoining the town of Ladner's Landing I never saw. A greener field I never met with in the whole of my experience. Returning by a circuitous route, we visited a cattle farm, where we saw a number of good stock cattle and sheep. We then dropped into town, where we made arrangements for our departure by our steam launch. So, bidding good-bye to Ladner's Landing, we got safely back to Vancouver three hours later.

Next day we sailed to Victoria, the capital town of British Columbia, where the Government offices are located.

We took five hours to reach it, and took up our quarters in the "Balmoral" Hotel. Victoria has a population of 20,000 inhabitants, and is situated very beautifully at the southern extremity of Vancouver Island. The climate of this island is reckoned the same as is to be found in the South of England. Victoria, like Vancouver City, is a port, and steamships depart about every five days for San Francisco and Mexican and South American West Coast ports. It is also the British naval station on the North Pacific, and we could see the blue-jackets pacing the streets in twos and threes. From an agricultural point of view, Vancouver Island, like the mainland of British Columbia, consists of some fertile land. The greatest portion of it, however, is under timber of gigantic proportions. Some of the trees measure between 200 and 300 feet in height. In certain parts where the trees have been burned out, cultivation is carried on with a fair amount of success.

With the view of seeing some of the agricultural land round Victoria, we started with the intention of making a circuit in an easterly direction, returning by the west, seeing on our way parts of the vast timber region. Starting from town about nine o'clock, we traversed a country of great natural beauty, with farms here and there, stolen, as it were, by the hardy pioneers of former days, by dint of hard labour, from the primeval forest. The land along our route is rich, and produces splendid crops, but only a small portion of it is yet cleared. It takes from \$50 to \$100 per acre to clear the land; but it is calculated that 10 acres of good land is as profitable as 100 in many parts of Canada. Dairying does well, and the country round about might be said to be the natural home of the Ayrshire cow. Milk sells at 30 cents per imperial gallon, and from 3 to 4 gallons per day is the average production of a cow during the flow of summer. The price of other agricultural productions is equally dear. A duck sells at 5s., British money, and other poultry in proportion. Passing on, we arrived at Saanich Hotel, 12 miles from Victoria. There we unhitched our horses and partook of lunch, giving the horses an hour and a half to rest. All along our line of journey land has risen in price to a great extent during the last year. This

has been in a great measure caused by a line of railway which is being made through this part of Vancouver. Near the hotel where we put up a station is being built, another hotel has just been completed, and a general boom appears to be the outcome. Farmers who have land within the surveyed boundaries of this future town or city are asking £40 sterling per acre for it, and there is a probability that they may get even more.

Diverging at this point, we continued our journey in a westerly direction, through a beautifully wooded country, diversified by hill and valley, lake, and wooded heights, with here and there farm-houses nestling in the lower ground. The farm-houses which we have seen are done up in quite a good style, with flower and fruit gardens adjoining, presenting a snug appearance, and suggestive of comfort and prosperity. When half-way between Saanich Hotel and Victoria we are in the centre of the great timber belt of Vancouver Island. The wood for six miles along is a vast wedge of timber, of which the spruce, cedar, and Douglas pine predominate. Some of the trees measure very nearly 300 feet in length, with thickness in proportion. A correct idea of this great forest cannot be formed without visiting it. In some parts the trees are so close to each other as to be nearly touching. We got out of this district by getting on to the main road from Victoria, on which we travelled in the morning. From that point to the city are inns every two miles or so. It appears to be a thickly populated part of the country, as we met quite a number of people driving one way or another.

*To Vancouver
and Mission.*

Getting back to our hotel, and leaving Victoria about 12 o'clock midnight, we arrived at Vancouver in the early morning. From there we took the train to Mission, about 30 miles up the Fraser Valley; there we stayed all night. During the day we visited most of the agricultural land in the valley, driving a distance of 14 miles to a farm owned by a Mr. Page, where we found a splendid soil, of great depth and fertility, capable of producing fruit and vegetables of the largest kind. He possessed a number of cows, and made dairy farming a speciality. In his piggery we counted 200 pigs of all sizes. Mr. Page says he can make a good deal off them annually; he feeds them on white peas, with a few raw vegetables. We examined a field of swede turnips, and pronounced them excellent. They were sown as late as July, and Mr. Page expects them to grow until December. He says July is the best time to sow turnips, as the Fraser River rises with the snow melting on the mountains, causing back water during the months of May and June. Mr. Page has a good many acres planted with fruit trees, which seem to do well in this province. The great drawback in this valley is the bad roads; the land is not drained, and, as the rainfall is high, the roads are apt to be muddy and soft.

On getting back to Mission, I happened to meet an old settler, who told me the whole history of the locality, and his own as well. Travelling in search of work, he heard from a man who came from this part that wages were high, so he conjectured he might do

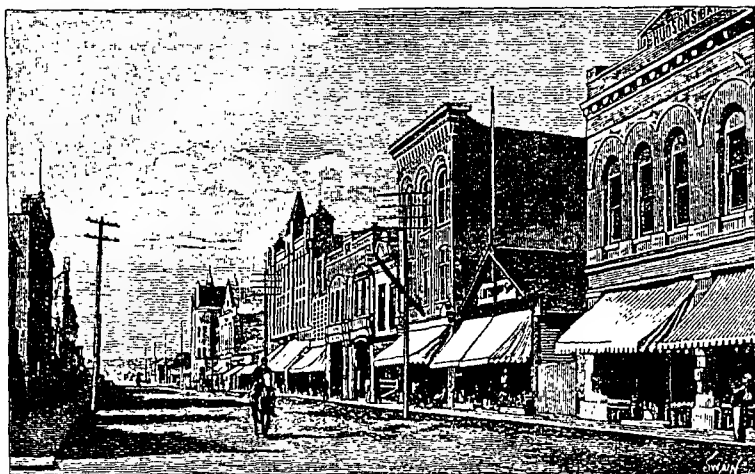
worse than try his luck in the district. On arriving, he found employment at the rate of \$100 a month; and after working twelve months he saved sufficient money to homestead a farm. "Now," he says, "I am independent of anyone, as far as money goes." In these days there was no Chinese labour, and few workmen to be had, the distance and expense of travelling so far westward being the great barrier.

An Industrial Opening. As an evidence of the interest the settlers in Mission Valley have in the welfare of this district, they, in conjunction with the people of Mission

Town, which consists of about 200 inhabitants, have erected a large salmon-canning shed, which cost more than \$2,000, on the banks of the Fraser River, half a mile from town, and they are offering the shed, free of cost, to any man or company who will consent to run it for three years under certain conditions. At the suggestion of my friend, I consented to go down and visit the place. I found it 120 yards in length and 60 in breadth, and of two stories. In the upper part, fish-curing had already been begun by some of the workmen on their own account. I might say this is a great valley for fish. Our friend told me that at a certain creek off the Fraser River near here, the salmon going up to spawn, as they do every year at this time, got so jammed that he managed to fill a waggon with a hay fork as fast as he could lift them. At this point they are caught for manuring fruit trees, and anyone can take them who cares to. There are also two small rivers in the valley where trout are caught with the rod. At our hotel I saw two which had just been taken. One of them weighed $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Reflecting over these facts, I thought it put in the shade all our little rivers combined—such as the Irvine, Cessnock, the Lugar, and Ayr—to such an extent as to make fishing at home something of the nature of a joke.

Calgary, Red Deer, and Edmonton. Returning to the hotel, we made preparations for departure for Calgary to see the Red Deer and Edmonton country; and once more crossing the Rockies, we arrived at Calgary, and left there for the purpose of seeing the Edmonton district. We then left for the town of Red Deer, which is the centre of what is known as the Red Deer district, one of the finest in the Great North-West. The town, which is only of a year or two's standing, exhibits signs of substantial progress as far as building operations go. We put up at the Alberta Hotel, a large building of modern construction. After a good night's rest, we went out on a round of inspection, calling on our way on a farmer named John Gaetz, who owns a fine farm of 320 acres of rich land. On interviewing him, we found him most willing to tender any information in his power to give. He told us that he had homesteaded about 10 years ago, and that he was satisfied financially with his position now. This appears to be a very good district for oats, as 60 bushels per acre are often said to be raised, and even 90; and, judging from the crop we saw in stook, these estimates are perhaps correct. Passing on, we struck a fine country, particularly well adapted for mixed farming, and little of it as yet taken up by settlers. A large

portion of the land here, as in a great many districts in Canada, is held by speculators. The Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company are large holders of land in the neighbourhood, and they had advertised a sale of land for the following Tuesday, at the upset price of \$3½ per



CALGARY

acre. As this part of the country is likely to develop in the near future, anyone investing with the intention of farming his land would in all probability find himself fairly well fixed, with good prospects before him, in a few years. Along our way stops were made at the farms of several of the settlers, and the replies given to questions asked justifies me in saying that an air of contentment existed which spoke well for the district generally.

On Wednesday we drove out in an entirely different direction, the day being spent in much the same way as the previous one, with the exception that no settlers were interviewed. Along our route we drove through some fine stretches of hay land, from which thousands of tons of hay could be taken. The natural grasses grow very luxuriantly in the sloughs, or lower stretches of land, which in a great many cases are covered with water during spring and early summer. The country through which we drove is a beautiful one, and is covered in many places with large groves of timber, much of it of good size and well suited for house purposes. Wood is, I consider, a great acquisition to the settler: he can use it for rail timber, out-houses, and for fuel. In this district of Red Deer, however, coal abounds, and can be wrought from the face of river banks and other outcrops. The price of coals is about \$2 a ton, which is not a high price, and anyone wishing to haul them can have them for nothing.

*An
Agricultural
Show.*

Next day—Thursday, 12th October—happened to be the annual fair of the town, on which occasion the show of the Red Deer Agricultural Society is held. We all visited the show, several of us assisting in the judging department. In point of attendance, number of entries, and quality of exhibits, the show was an unqualified success. Both the settlers in the district and the merchants in the town unite in promoting the interests of the society, and there appears to be quite a unanimity in this matter. The weather being good, a large number of people turned out to the show, which was well arranged, and would have done credit to any Old Country exhibition of the sort. Grain in sheaf, made up for the occasion, was arranged round the walls, presenting a fine appearance, being charming in colour and plump in quality. The bushel exhibits of grain were also good. One lot of oats which got first prize weighed 51 lbs. per bushel. We proved this for ourselves. The wheat also was good, and so was the barley. As regards vegetables, there were several varieties of turnips, potatoes, beets, mangolds, carrots, pumpkins, squash, citron, onions, cabbage, parsnips, winter radish, &c. They were all good specimens, and spoke well for the fertility of the Red Deer soil. Of dairy produce there was a good display. The butter—in rolls, prints, and firkins—was of a good quality. The cattle stock—consisting of the Hereford, Polled Angus, and Shorthorn breeds—was of large size and good quality. They had been fed on the natural grass of the prairie, without any extra food whatever. The horses were mostly of light breeds, though there were some of the Clydesdale stamp. There were also pigs and poultry. An exhibit of preserved native fruits was deserving of notice; also an exhibit of silk-embroidered leather work from the Indian Industrial School, the production of the dusky fingers of the Indian women, which reflected credit on the superintendent (Mr. Neilson), his assistants, and the pupils.

Edmonton.

Leaving the Red Deer district, we went straight on to Edmonton, the terminus of a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This district, though more than 100 miles from Red Deer, is a continuation of the same fertile belt of land. It is at present being opened up by the railway company, and is absorbing settlers from all parts. A proposed further extension of the railway will throw open a vast region further north equally fertile, containing millions of acres, which is destined in the future to become the home of many settlers, but which is at present outside the scope of civilisation. Edmonton consists of two towns, North and South, the North being the older one, originally a Hudson Bay fort, and the other the terminus of the railway. The climate differs from that of Southern Alberta in that rainfall and snowfall are heavier, but it is, comparatively speaking, free from wind storms. It is therefore more favourable for the growth of cereals. The natural advantages of the district, as well as that of Red Deer, consist in the fact that they have the benefit of the Western as well as the Eastern markets. British Columbia takes nearly all that can be produced. Like Red Deer, too, it has abundance of coal, and there is

gold-mining as well. Gold-digging is done on the banks of the Saskatchewan River on the sand-washing principle. Good wages can be made during four months of the year—from July, when the river gets small, until the end of October, when the frost begins. From \$2 to \$4 a day can be made without much hard labour during these months. The gold is got in what are called “pockets,” or special spots, all along the banks. At these places the soil is riddled and the sand washed. Whether this industry could be better developed by the aid of machinery remains yet to be seen. At present hundreds of men live by gold-finding in and around Edmonton.

In regard to the agricultural resources of the district, there cannot be two opinions. The land is deep and fertile, and capable of producing almost any crop. With the view of seeing the natural productions of the district, we responded to an invitation to visit the exhibition hall of North Edmonton, which contained grain, seeds, roots, and vegetables, held over from the former day's exhibition for the purpose of showing us the capabilities of the district. The display was similar in character to what we saw at Red Deer, with this difference—that the exhibition was on a larger scale. The same interest and enthusiasm are shown here as at home between the rival exhibitors. There is also a rivalry between the two towns of North and South Edmonton. The old town is situated in a fine farming country, the land being mostly taken up for a distance of 12 or 15 miles. Between the two towns is the Saskatchewan River. A bridge is going to be built by Government, perhaps next year, which will be a great advantage to both places, and do away with the ferry.

We left South Edmonton next morning on our usual land-inspecting excursions, calling first upon a farmer named Mr. *Visits to Farmers.* Kerning, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the station. He expressed himself satisfied with his position. We also visited Mr. David Holmes, who is located on a very good farm, and whose average of oats he told us was 80 bushels per acre. This may seem to people at home to be an exaggeration, but, judging from the appearance of the standing stooks—which, owing to a late harvest, were not all in—we concluded, as far as this year was concerned, there was no exaggeration. Mr. Holmes has 320 acres, and is conducting his business on the mixed farming principle, sowing oats chiefly, a portion of which he feeds to his cattle during winter. The oats he sells are generally kept over from the previous season, and sold as old oats, for which he received this year 50 cents per bushel.

Moving on, we dropped in on another farmer, in our usual unannounced manner, and received similar evidences of his success. He farms 320 acres, cropping only 75, however, the balance being used for cattle-grazing. Last year, we were told, he sold \$700 worth of cattle. We were also told that he started 11 years ago without capital; now he estimates his farm as being worth \$10,000.

The next farmer we visited was a Frenchman, and one of the oldest settlers in the district. Working his way up from being a labourer, he has now a farm of 800 acres. He sold 60 very recently at \$7½ an acre. In his straw-yard the portable threshing mill was doing

work, threshing a very superior crop of wheat, which he considered would average 25 bushels per acre. His oats he thought would run to 45, and his barley to 40. Expressing satisfaction with his explanations, we drove on to the town of St. Albert, about 18 miles from Edmonton, and here we had lunch.

Taking a stroll afterwards through the town and surrounding *St. Albert.* ings, we were struck with the nice, cleanly appearance of the place, and the reign of contentment which seemed to pervade everyone. At present the district round St. Albert is attracting considerable attention on the part of land speculators and settlers. The land is good, and there is plenty of it to sell, buy, or homestead. It is well intersected by timber clumps, of from 1 acre to 4 or 5, all dotted over the plain.

Getting back after a run of nearly 40 miles, we started next day in a north-westerly direction to Fort Saskatchewan, nearly 24 miles from Edmonton. This is one of the principal trading stations of the Hudson Bay Company in these parts; and does a considerable trade both with the white and native population. Round here, as at St. Albert, a considerable number of half-breeds hold land. Some of them farm very creditably, though the majority are indolent, and willing to sell out in a great many cases at an undervalue on a ready cash transaction. I am of opinion any man coming here with a little capital, and industrious at the start, could do very well. Money in new settling countries is of paramount importance, and can purchase land which in a few years must rise in value. Into this great fertile belt of the North-West a flow of immigration must sooner or later come. It is beginning; and we met and passed during our drive to and from Fort Saskatchewan four or five settlers' outfits. As our guide, who is the emigration agent for this part of the country, said, they come in at all times, but get swallowed up as fast as they come. A good many are now coming from the United States, and it is contemplated that this immigration will increase as time goes on. Taking a circuitous route from the town of Fort Saskatchewan, we went along a similar tract of land to that we had seen in the fore part of the day. Along the road here and there could be seen evidence of settlement, in the shape of new houses—log, board, wood, and brick being the chief materials used in construction.

After visiting the provinces west of Winnipeg in the capacity of delegate, my impressions are that too much *Mixed Farming.* wheat-growing is resorted to. Wheat seems to hold the field in spite of falling prices. As a sort of corrective to continuous cropping, which must sooner or later exhaust the best of soils, I would recommend mixed farming as a remedy. It will both restore the land to the original fertility, if properly managed, and create much better returns. The country, too, is specially adapted for it—a conclusion I have formed after studying the matter. The leading features that mark out Manitoba and the North-Western provinces as specially suited for mixed farming, and dairying, are the rich natural grasses which everywhere abound, with no noxious weeds to taint the dairy produce, and the abundance of winter keep in the

shape of hay, which is very nutritive and fattening, and which can be raised for \$1 a ton. Then the summers do not seem to be too hot for the cattle; and there is, generally speaking, a plentiful supply of water from lakes, rivers, and springs. The great objection, I found, that some farmers had to mixed farming was the amount of capital needed to purchase cattle and build houses. Every man I talked with connected with farming seemed to fully understand the benefits connected with it; but there seems to be a sort of fascination in wheat-producing which a great many cannot well get over. No doubt there is a certain amount of skill needed to manage a herd of cattle or dairy, while little judgment, comparatively speaking, is required to plough, sow, and reap a crop of wheat. If farmers, however, do not see their way to adopt mixed farming generally, they would do well to cultivate a smaller area of wheat than mostly prevails. It is of importance that the land should be sufficiently prepared in the fall, and an early variety of seed sown in the spring, so as to give the most advantageous results both as to market value and early maturing—allowing the farmer to cut his grain before there is any chance of autumn frosts ensuing, and finishing threshing before winter comes on. The old saying that wheat is king seems in some parts to be the truth, but it is no secret that a good many farmers all over the country are not quite content to take the risks connected with wheat alone, and are seeking after something that will give a regular and sure profit. It is, however, too much to say that the industry of either dairying or cattle-raising will save the farmer from disappointment, and enable him to reckon on a steady income in every case. I hold it would be a step in the proper direction, and to help to bring it about the advisability of erecting cheese factories ought to be considered and adopted in the most likely parts, where they would have a chance of establishing themselves, as well as encouraging an industry which must sooner or later become general.

Having finished with the Edmonton district, we took the train to Calgary, and from there to Brandon, a distance of 800 miles, driving from Brandon on to Killarney (64 miles), from where we intended to take the train on to Winnipeg. In taking that part of Manitoba on our way back to Winnipeg we were to be afforded an opportunity of seeing the southern part of the province, and perhaps, if time afforded, talking with a few of the crofters. In going to Killarney we passed through a fine level country, which is already mostly taken up. Passing Rounthwaite, Methven, and Wawanesa—all lively little places, with visible signs of improvement, seeing that building was going on in all of them—we arrived late at night at Killarney. This is a lively little place of perhaps 200 inhabitants. Obtaining a trap next day, my co-delegate from the North and myself visited the settlement. On interviewing a few of the crofters, most of them admitted being better off now than they were at home in the North and West of Scotland. Some of them, however, complained about one thing and another, thus impressing us with the idea that when a crofter stops complaining he ceases to be one. I favour the opinion, however, that the crofter should not be

located in the colony system, but rather in twos and threes. Being fishermen more than farmers in the Old Country, they had everything to learn in connection with a settler's life, the first stages of



A KILLARNEY CROFTER PLOUGHING.

which are generally fraught with hardships. These have got to be surmounted by dint of perseverance and determination, combined with a knowledge of the ways of the country, which can, of course, be best



A CROFTER'S STABLE AND FARM-YARD.

imparted by neighbours having already gained the experience. I have in my possession the names of 11 crofters from the North, who have done very well, they having been located in twos and threes, and this goes to prove my statement. The aggregate capital they started with

was \$6,600; the aggregate value now is \$79,000. The names of these crofters, and the figures, I have from a reliable source.

Parting with our friends, and making once more for Killarney, we left next day for Winnipeg, returning there about mid-afternoon. Our official duties, as far as related to the Western provinces, were now ended; and as the members of the Delegation were leaving on the 28th October, except Mr. Guiry, from Ireland, Mr. Smith, from Yorkshire, and myself, Commissioner Smith, of the Dominion Lands Office, Winnipeg, made provision for us to inspect what we could of the province of Ontario, up to as near the 11th November as possible, at which date we three were due to leave Montreal for Liverpool.

Leaving Winnipeg via North Bay, Toronto, and Detroit, *The Canadian* I arrived at Chicago on Tuesday the 24th October, *Exhibit at* putting up at the Manitoban Hotel, opposite the *Chicago.* World's Fair grounds. In a large hall connected with this hotel the Manitoban agricultural exhibits were

located. On entering the hall, I was much struck with the extent as well as the good quality of the exhibits. There were 500 samples of wheat, oats, barley, rye, &c., selected from various parts of the province. The wheat exhibits I considered very fine; and Manitoba was very successful in taking first prize against the world at large.

In the Canadian Court, situated in the Agricultural Buildings, the Dominion exhibits were located. It occupied a space of 15,000 square feet, and was surrounded on four sides by artistic designs, done up in all kinds of grain in the sheaf, straw, corn in the husk, native grasses, and cereals from the different Government Experimental Farms in the various provinces. Each province of the Dominion had a display of its own special products, and each vied with the other as regards excellence and beauty of the turn-out.

Occupying a prominent position in front of the Court was Canada's Cheese Wonder. It was mounted on a low waggon strongly constructed, and painted in bright colours; the weight of the cheese is 22,000 lbs., and it was placed within a large iron casing with a glass top, which allowed visitors to see it. It really was a cheese.

There was a stair up to it which looked quite worn by people treading up and down. Along the large annexe of the Agricultural Buildings the Canadian agricultural machinery and implements were placed—a display which reflected credit on the Canadian manufacturers. There were three Canadian courts devoted to vegetables and fruits in the Horticultural Buildings. The exhibits made by Ontario were in every way the largest and most complete. In the way of fresh and preserved fruits the Dominion exhibited 292 varieties of apples, 73 of pears, 19 of peaches, 39 of cherries, 37 of gooseberries, 25 of currants, 61 of strawberries, 139 of grapes, 18 of raspberries, and 14 of wild fruit.

Not content with having the largest cheese in the world, the Canadians tried to outdo their neighbours in exhibits of the largest vegetables at the great Exposition. A large pumpkin weighing 146 lbs., and a squash which turned the scale at 486 lbs., both grown by William Warnock, of Goderich, Ontario, were the largest shown.

Prizes for Cheese. Previous to the official list being published, I received, through Judge Brown, of Hamilton, Ontario, one of the judges of British exhibits, a summary to the effect that Canada took about 50 per cent. of all the money prizes at the World's Fair, the proportion in the case of the cheese exhibits, being 95 per cent. I afterwards received the official list now published, and find that at the June exhibition the total number of single entries of cheese from Canada and the United States was 667. Of these, Canada sent, from over 100 different factories, 162 (nearly all of these entries were in the classes for factory and Cheddar cheese). Total awards for Cheddar cheese, 138; of these, Canada took 129, leaving for the United States 9. Thirty-one exhibits of Canadian cheese scored higher than the highest United States cheese. At the October competition, the total number of single entries from Canada and the United States in Cheddar and factory cheese was 606, of which hailing from Canada there were 524. The total of awards for cheese made previous to 1893 was 110; Canada took all of them. The total awards for cheese in Cheddar or factory classes made in 1893 was 414; of these, Canada took 369, leaving for the United States 45; 130 exhibits of Canadian cheese in these classes scored higher than the highest United States cheese. In Cheddar or factory classes, for the two competitions of June and October in which Canada took part, the entries and awards are as follows:—United States, 586 exhibits, 54 awards; Canada, 687 exhibits, 607 awards. These striking successes will have the effect of not only stimulating further effort on the part of Canadian dairymen, but will enhance the price of Canadian cheese in British and foreign markets. The system of judging was conducted fairly, subject to rule 5, which provides for the appointment of judges, one from the Eastern States, one from the Western States, and one from Canada.

Leaving the World's Fair, I arrived in Hamilton, Ontario, on November 1st. I had time to see only a portion of this province. Ontario is a large and important province of the Dominion, having an area of about 222,000 square miles, and a population exceeding 2,000,000. Redeemed mostly from the primeval forest by the old pioneer settlers of long ago, it is needless to say that it is now a rich, commercial, and well-populated country. Toronto, the seat of the Provincial Government of Ontario, has a population of 200,000; and Ottawa, the seat of the Dominion Government, has a population of about 50,000. The soil of Ontario may be said to be rich. It varies according to locality, some localities being very suitable for grain, fruit, and vegetable productions. Ontario is becoming rapidly a large manufacturing country. Agricultural implements, railway rolling stock, furniture, tanning, cotton and woollen, paper, soap, and pulp manufactures all imply an ever-increasing population. The climate of Ontario, like every other climate in a large territory, varies according to situation, latitude, and proximity to lakes, &c. On the whole, it is one of the most pleasant and healthful in the world. The purity and dryness of the atmosphere counteracts the effects of high temperature in the summer and low temperature in the

winter. In the districts bordering on the lower lakes (Ontario and Erie) the winter begins a little before Christmas, lasting till about the end of March.

Dairy Farming. Dairy farming is the sheet-anchor of the Ontario farmer, and the value of cheese exported has more than doubled in the last few years. Canadian cheeses have all along been recognised as the best in America, and now, since the wonderful success achieved at the World's Fair, an enhancement of value must be the result. The following figures relating to the exports tell the progress of this trade in recent years:—

1874	...	...	...	...	value	\$3,523,201
1884	...	...	...	...	"	7,251,989
1887	...	...	...	...	"	7,108,978
1889	...	...	...	...	"	8,915,684
1890	...	...	...	...	"	9,372,212
1891	...	...	...	...	"	9,508,800

Owing to the development of the cheese trade in Ontario, butter-making is more limited, nevertheless \$602,175 worth was exported in 1891, and I found wherever I went that creameries are being considered profitable in connection with cheese factories.

A Cheese Factory. Being anxious to visit a cheese factory, I took train from Hamilton to Ingersoll, the home of Mr. Drummond, cheese instructor, Dairy Institute, Kilmarnock. It is the centre of a fine agricultural and dairy district, about 60 miles out. Getting there about mid-forenoon, I drove to West Oxford Factory. Mr. Williams, the manager, not being at home, I was shown through the establishment by one of the foremen. On account of the lateness of the season, it being the 8th of November, only two vats were in use. These contain 400 gallons each. On asking the proportion of curd to milk, I was told it was 110 gallons of curd to 100 gallons of milk, which is about the same average as in Scotland. Seventeen cheeses were made the previous day, and 11 the day I was there, of 80 lbs. each; 3,200 had been made up to date, and there were about 300 still to make. Both coloured and uncoloured cheese are made. Although not all sold, the price then, 11 cents per lb., I was told was offered for those from September till the end of making, and 9½ cents for the summer make. This factory helped to build up the reputation of Canadian dairymen at the World's Fair, it having scored a high average there. Eighty farmers send milk here in summer, and about seventy were doing so when I called. A meeting, I was told, was to be held that night to consider the propriety of establishing a creamery in connection with the factory—an evidence that expansion of business is contemplated.

Land round Ingersoll appears to be good. It sells at from \$15 to \$35, and sometimes as high as \$50, an acre. A farm within a stone-throw of West Oxford Factory, of 150 acres, of superior land, well situated, was for sale; the price asked, I was told, was £2,000, one-tenth down, and the remainder in nine payments at 6 per cent. per annum.

A Typical Ontario Farm. Being anxious to see a typical high-class farm in Ontario, I drove from Hamilton one day; about 10 miles from town, through a splendid fruit and mixed farming country, to Mr. Fothergill's prize

farm. He has been there for 15 years. In 1886 Mr. Fothergill was awarded third prize for the best-managed farm in the province of Ontario, and three medals previous to that for groups of counties. On arrival, I found him busy securing his maize crop in small ricks near the house. Being anxious to learn his system of management, he



AN ONTARIO FARM.

told me he went in for mixed farming, and a little fruit-raising besides. He sold his milk instead of feeding cattle as he used to do more extensively. Mr. Fothergill keeps between 30 and 40 cows, and feeds them on maize during winter, which he thinks better than turnips. He has no silo. He had 40 acres of wheat, the average production of which he estimated at 27 bushels, and oats 60 bushels per acre. Mr. Fothergill feeds part of his grain to stock, thinking it pays him better to do so than selling it. He has a fine house and buildings. His turnip and hay shed is 100 ft. by 50 ft., on the bottom floor of which his cattle are wintered. On the whole, everything connected with the farm was tidy, and the management appeared to be well conducted.

*The Agricultural
College, Guelph.*

Having visited the Agricultural College and experimental farm near Guelph, which is situated in a fine farming district, and where young farmers from all parts of the Dominion are taught the practice and science of agriculture, I consider the establishment of such an institution, and the advantage gained, a tribute to the foresight of the Canadian people. The farm consists of 550 acres, promising to

the youth who attends the college a thorough practical and professional knowledge of every branch of farming. It is conducted by an able staff of instructors and professors, thoroughly qualified to impart agricultural instruction. The fees are not high—for residents in Ontario, sons of farmers, \$20 a year; for residents who are not farmers' sons, \$30; for non-residents, \$100 for the first year, and \$50 for the second year. Besides giving a thorough practical and theoretical education to pupils, experiments are carried on with grain, roots, grass seeds, clovers, and all kinds of fruit trees connected with a farm. The students are pointed out the different qualities of various productions, and the results of all experiments are published in bulletins from time to time. Such an institution as the Guelph College is calculated to aid very materially the development of every branch of agricultural industry.

The Niagara Valley. After seeing the Falls of Niagara—one of the great sights connected with Canada—I had a stroll of inspection through part of the Niagara Valley, called by some the "Garden of Canada." Leaving Hamilton about 8.30, I drove to Grimsby, a distance of about 18 miles on a straight road. All along, on both sides, thrifty orchards are laid out on almost every well-managed farm, the products of which constitute in many instances a source of profit and pleasure. Apples, peaches, pears, plums, and other small fruits and grapes are also cultivated to a great extent. In forming an orchard, the ground is first of all cropped in turnips or potatoes, and cleaned of weeds. Then the trees are planted in rows about 6 yards apart, so as to allow horse cultivation to be done. During the course of growth, crops of wheat, oats, maize, or barley are taken off the ground, and you can see a fine crop of golden grain overtopped by young trees covered with fruit. Calling at a farm near Grimsby, I was shown a plot of onions of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, the crop of which was said to be 900 bushels, and the price about 5s. per bushel. The cost of production was £12, and seeding £6. Land there sells at from £10 per acre to £30 and £40, and in some cases more, according to extent and age of orchard, and quality of soil.

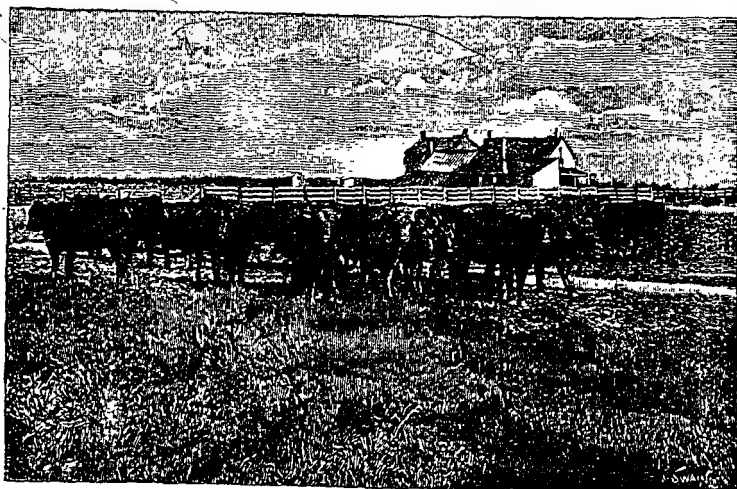
Conclusions. My stay in Canada now drew to a close, and I began to turn my face homewards, much pleased with all I had seen, and with the way I had at all times been treated in that great and widespread country. In concluding this record of my tour throughout its Dominion, I must say that my opinion of Canada as a suitable place for our surplus population is very favourable. There is cheap land, and plenty of it, and a farmer can begin with a small capital, with a good chance of succeeding well if he is industrious. Canada being a country of vast extent—as large as Europe, taking away Turkey, and as big as the United States, with the exception of Alaska—it presents a diversity of climate, soil, and production, as a matter of course. The different provinces of the Dominion have so many special claims on the attentions of the intending emigrant, that he is often at a loss to know where to locate himself. The Old Country farmer with a little capital

will find in Ontario an old province, with good land and cheap, social conditions, and schools and churches as at home—in fact, little difference between it and Scotland or England. Then Manitoba has special advantages open to all, both to the capitalist and those who are willing to work themselves up. There is excellent soil of a rich black loam, resting on a clay subsoil, and producing the finest quality of wheat in the world; indeed, it took this year the first prize at the World's Fair, as it did at the Bakers and Millers' Exhibition in London in 1892. Then the North-West Territories present a field for mixed farming and ranching not to be surpassed anywhere; these have deep soil, and large crops are generally produced. The climate in Alberta and near the "Rockies" being mild in winter, cattle can be kept out all the time without shelter, making this the place suitable for ranching and mixed farming. Then British Columbia has special claims and advantages to hold forth. It has a splendid climate, good soil—no better in the world—and good markets for farm produce. It has also large mineral resources, fish in abundance, and wood which will, sooner or later, be a source of wealth to the Dominion. The Earl of Aberdeen has just now bought a large estate in British Columbia, which I understand he intends to sell out in farm lots to settlers. Land is, however, dear in most parts of British Columbia, £20 and £30 an acre being asked for most of it in the fertile portions of the province.

Having seen this vast country from Manitoba to the Pacific, in common with the rest of the Delegation, and having talked with farmers in every district I visited, meeting them on their own farms and hearing what they had to say, I must confess I was not surprised to find both contentment and a look of prosperity, in nine cases out of ten, prevailing. Every man we interviewed appeared to us to be speaking the truth, and each seemed to think the particular spot in which he happened to be located was the best in the Dominion or the world. Some might want to know, however, how the Canadian farmer is able to live with wheat at such a low price as it happens to be presently. I think it can be shown that there is a profit yet in spite of low figures. The average production of Manitoba and the North-West Territories in wheat is as near as possible 20 bushels an acre, which at 50 cents per bushel is equal to £2 1s. 8d. The cost of production is as follows:—Ploughing, per acre, \$1; harrowing and rolling, 40 cents; seed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, 90 cents; seeding, 15 cents; cord, 26 cents; harvesting and stooking, 22 cents; threshing 20 bushels, \$1.14; marketing, 52 cents; interest, taxes, repairs, &c., \$1.70—\$6.69 (equal to £1 7s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in our money). Value of crop per acre, £2 1s. 8d.; cost of production and interest, £1 7s. 8d.; profits, 14s. per acre. Thus a 300-acre farm in Manitoba, with one-third in fallow, leaving 200 acres in wheat, at 14s. per acre, brings the profit to a total of £140. This is only one item of revenue. With mixed farming the profits ought to be much greater. In judging as regards farming in Manitoba, it is evident in many cases that ignorance in connection with scientific methods prevails. This, no doubt,

is because very few are born and bred to it there. The way profitable farming can best be conducted in Manitoba is to fallow one-third annually. For instance, on a 300-acre farm, to fallow one-third leaves 200 acres in crop; then sow wheat on the fallow the following year. The next season oats can be drilled into the ground after burning the stubble, without ploughing, which reduces the work of ploughing by 100 acres annually. This system, which is beginning to be generally adopted, especially on light land, has the advantage of allowing the fallow-work to be done before harvest, when there is little else to do. Some farmers do not appear to fallow any land, as the crops in some parts are often choked with weeds—a neglect which causes a reduction in the average production. I am of opinion that if careful farming was practised, instead of 20 bushels per acre being the average production, 30 bushels would be nearer the figure in the province of Manitoba.

In the way of summing up my remarks, I might state that everywhere we went we met with successful Scotchmen, both in connection with farming and mercantile pursuits. They seem to carry the secret of prosperity wherever they go in the Dominion. The large proportion of farmers we came across in Canada were either Scotch, or their parents were. When leaving for the World's Fair, I was pleased to hear from Mr. Ogilvie, the great wheat king of Canada—himself a Scotchman and millionaire—that nearly one-half of the city of Montreal belonged to our countrymen. I was also pleased when I got to Chicago, the city than can boast of the largest Burns Club in the world, to hear more Scotch music than any other. I am sure my co-delegate, Mr. Fraser, from the North, and myself will long remember the kind greetings we received from brother Scots, especially those connected with the Hudson Bay Company.



GALLOWAY CATTLE ON A MANITOBA FARM.

THE REPORT OF MR. ALEX. FRASER,

Balloch of Culloden, Inverness, N.B.

I HAD the honour of being appointed in August last a tenant-farmer delegate to visit and report on the agricultural resources of the Dominion of Canada. The Delegation then appointed consisted in all of 14 members—two representing Scotland, viz.: Mr. Steven, Purroch Farm, Kilmarnock, for the South, and myself for the North; the other members represented England, Ireland, and Wales. I left Inverness on Tuesday, 15th August last, by the night train, and, joining Mr. Steven in Glasgow, got on board the s.s. "Parisian," of the Allan Line, which was timed to sail from Alexandra Dock, Liverpool, at noon on the 17th. We got under way shortly afterwards, and I was introduced to Sir John Thompson, Premier of the Dominion, and to Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, both of whom were crossing with us; and to two of our fellow-delegates—Messrs. Smith and Shelton. At Moville we were joined by Mr. J. Guiry, Clonmel, who represented Ireland; and on Friday afternoon we got the parting sight of Ireland, lit up with brilliant sunshine, as we ploughed our way towards the great American continent.

The "Parisian" is a vessel of 3,262 tons register, having accommodation for 1,134 passengers and 130 of a crew—in all, 1,262. The captain, Mr. Joseph Ritchie, was very agreeable and attentive to us during the trip; he is a native of the South of Scotland. We carried the following passengers and crew, viz.:—1st cabin, 201; 2nd cabin, 172; steerage, 288; crew, 150; all told, 811. About 120 of the steerage passengers were foreigners—I should say Germans, Dutch, &c.—and the remainder English and Irish, 40 of the latter joining us at Moville. A consignment of 10 pure-bred Border Leicester sheep, bought from the Duke of Buccleuch, and going to Mr. Joseph Thomson, Salem, Goldstone, Wellington, Ontario, was taken out; also, a two-year-old Yorkshire coaching stallion, bought from George Burton, Esq., Selby, Yorkshire, and going to Mr. B. Whale, Goldstone, Wellington, Ontario. At noon on the 23rd we sighted land, which proved to be the coast of Newfoundland—Belle Isle and Labrador; an hour after we were close up, and passed Belle Isle on the south side. Our first sight of the American shore was not very enticing. Belle Isle reminded me very much of Ailsa Craig, not in shape, but in geological construction. As far as I could make out with the assistance of a powerful glass, there was no living creature on the place, with the exception of the lighthouse keepers. Before and after passing through the straits, we encountered a great number of icebergs; one morning I counted over 20 from the deck at one time. They were very beautiful to look at, resembling white marble cut into all shapes and forms, representing castles, churches, towers, &c. I was of opinion that they were a source

of considerable danger to navigators; but I am told that, unless in the case of fog, this is not so. They are plainly visible on the darkest night, on account of their clear whiteness.

On the 24th we were shown round the ship by Mr. Hartnell, chief steward. We visited the steerage first, and saw the general arrangements, which agreeably surprised me. I had an idea that steerage passengers had to put up with a great amount of hardships on board ship, but this is not the case. Their quarters are kept perfectly clean, being washed out and the decks freshly sanded every morning; the cabins are well ventilated, and 18 cubic feet of space is allowed for every passenger. Of course, as a rule, they have more than this, but in no case less. Bed, tin cup and plate, knife, fork, and spoon can be hired from the company for the voyage for 3s. 6d.; and blankets, which could be used afterwards as plaids, and would be useful to emigrants, are supplied at 2s. We next visited the cooks' galleys, which were very complete; 12 cooks are employed, and apparently are kept very busy. All fresh provisions are preserved in ice, and keep well. The ship is victualled for 40 days in summer and 32 in winter, by order of the Government. The steerage is situated in the after-part of the ship, and has accommodation for 948 passengers; the saloon in the centre, and the intermediate in the fore-part. The accommodation in the intermediate is very similar to the first cabin—quite as comfortable in every respect, only that there is a difference in style; all is plain, there being no decorations, &c. The rooms, as a rule, contain four berths, and all bedding is supplied. In my opinion, the passengers in this department get the best value in the ship. The difference in price between the steerage and intermediate is only £2 2s., and for this small additional sum you get everything supplied, have very much better food and accommodation, and a much nicer class of fellow-passengers. All who can possibly afford it would be wise in taking this class, and would find this to be especially the case if the weather proved to be in any way rough. The doctor visits the steerage regularly at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and can always be called in. There are two apartments on board set aside for hospitals—one for males, and the other for females—containing six beds in each. They are used in cases of contagious diseases, fever, &c. The ship's stores—such as preserved meat, eggs, butter, fruit, meal, wine, &c.—are kept underneath the intermediate cabin. The wine cellar is capable of containing 800 dozen of beer, and other liquor in proportion. Over 6,000 lbs. of preserved beef is carried. After getting into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, we had a concert in the intermediate cabin, and on the following night a concert and dance in the saloon, both of which were most enjoyable. The weather during the voyage was very good, and consequently everyone enjoyed themselves very much. We were within two hours of beating the record, and would have succeeded in doing this if we had not encountered a fog in the Gulf which detained us for a few hours. At 7.30 a.m. on the morning of Friday, the 25th, we were met by the tender at Rimouski, which took off the mail bags and a few passengers. The operation was carried out very expeditiously, only occupying about half an hour in all, and at 6 p.m.

the same day we were moored alongside the wharf at Quebec. We arrived during a severe thunderstorm. I have never seen anything at home like the brilliancy of the lightning. It lasted up till about 9 p.m., and set a saw-mill on fire. The effect of the fire and thunderstorm combined was very imposing, and looked as if Nature had prepared a special illumination on the occasion of our arrival in Canada.

We left Quebec at daylight on Saturday, and arrived Quebec to at Montreal at about 1.30 p.m. The scenery on both Montreal. sides of the river was very striking for the first half

of the journey, resembling in many respects that of the Firth of Clyde. On the south side there are numerous villages and detached residences; but we were informed the country behind was not so thickly populated, all the people living near the shore, being principally engaged in fishing. On the north bank there are not nearly so many villages, and the country looked very bare and deserted; in Scotland it would be suitable for sheep or deer. All the land here is occupied by French Canadians. Just before reaching Quebec a view of the Montmorency Falls is obtained, on the north bank; they are higher than Niagara, but of very much less volume. It is from here that power is got for the supply of electricity to the city of Quebec. After leaving Quebec, the scenery along the river banks was of a different description from the first part of the journey, the country being much flatter. We could not see very much of the agricultural aspect from the ship; the ground seemed to be divided into very small patches. In some parts the river was over a mile wide, in others it narrowed down to a few hundred yards. In some places the current runs very swiftly.

It was with a general feeling of regret that the passengers, who had passed the preceding week so pleasantly, said good-bye. During the passage, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had several conversations with the delegates, both together and separately, and imparted to us very much useful and interesting information about Canada, and how we could accomplish the objects of our mission in the best and most expeditious way. Mr. Thomas Mills, photographic artist and lanternist, Garth, Bangor, North Wales, gave an entertainment on board, showing his views of Canada, which we afterwards found to be very correct and representative. He accompanied one section of the Delegation, adding to his already copious supply of lantern slides many new and interesting views. Our portmanteaus and boxes were passed by the Custom House officers with very little difficulty, they in every case taking our word for what they contained. I may mention that on our return journey, at Liverpool, the examination was very much more strict.

As our mission was principally connected with the Montreal. North-West, it was our desire to push on to Winnipeg

with as little delay as possible; in consequence, we had very little time to spare seeing the large towns of Ontario. Indeed, it would be of small benefit in any case to describe, in a report of this nature, these cities very minutely, as that has been done so often already, and any person desirous of having that information can consult

any of the numerous illustrated guides, which can be purchased for a few pence. One of the finest views of Montreal is to be had from the top of Mount Royal. We were drawn up by the cable tramway, the gradient being as steep as the roof of a house. On reaching the summit we had a magnificent view of the city, which lay spread out at our feet. In the foreground lay the town, with its numerous churches, cathedrals, and large public buildings; while in the distance the mighty St. Lawrence formed the background, carrying on its bosom shipping bound for all parts of the world. The hill is well wooded with oak, birch, &c., and part of it forms a very picturesque cemetery. Winding paths intersect each other in all directions, and it affords a most pleasant picnic retreat for the inhabitants of the town, which they seem to take full advantage of. The temperature at this time was about 80 degrees in the shade; the heat is not very oppressive as long as one is outside. The nights are cool. I slept quite soundly, not feeling any too warm.

At 9.55 a.m. on Monday we left for Ottawa, arriving there Ottawa. at 12.55 p.m. After lunch we went to the office of Mr. A.

M. Burgess, Deputy-Minister of the Interior, who, unfortunately, was not in. We saw Mr. Hall, secretary to the department, and had a long conversation in relation to our future proceedings, finishing by making an appointment to meet Mr. Burgess the next day at 10 a.m. Owing to the wet nature of the weather, we were unable to carry out a suggestion that had been made to visit the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, having to postpone it for another day. Instead, we saw through the Houses of Parliament, which are fitted up in a very elaborate style. A good view of the city is to be had from the clock tower.

After breakfast on the 29th, four of our number called *Our Route.* on Mr. Burgess, who received us very kindly, and briefly sketched a proposed route for our guidance in seeing the Great North-West. His idea was that we should at once proceed to Winnipeg, which would be our headquarters for a few days; from there we should proceed by parties of two and see as much of Southern Manitoba as possible, both east and west, visiting the crofter settlement at Killarney, near Pelican Lake. On returning to Winnipeg, the portion of Manitoba lying to the north of the Canadian Pacific Railway line would be examined in a similar manner, including an inspection of the crofter settlement at Saltcoats. Again joining the main line, we were to proceed west, branching off to Prince Albert and Edmonton, seeing as much of these places as our time would permit; then proceed across the Rockies to Vancouver, Victoria, &c. On our return journey we would take Niagara Falls, entering the province of Ontario at the south-west, and finishing at Ottawa. Mr. Burgess then gave us an account of the system of education in Canada, which is both efficient and complete. Primary education is free, and secondary education very cheap, the fees only amounting to \$6 per quarter. There is a School of Practical Science at Toronto, and an Agricultural College at Guelph. Our interview lasted until nearly mid-day, when we returned to our hotel with Mr. Fortier, a gentleman belonging

to the Immigration Department, who was to take us to the experimental farm in the afternoon.

The Experimental Farm. The Central Experimental Farm is situated about two miles from Ottawa, and extends to about 450 acres. Owing to the short time at our disposal, we were only able to see things in a very cursory manner; more than a day would be required to see the whole properly. The objects of the farm are to give information to farmers, free of cost, on the following subjects, viz.: agriculture, horticulture, farm chemistry, entomology, botany, and the management of poultry. We first visited the chemical laboratory. Here all sorts of soils, grain, water, &c., sent in by farmers are analysed free of cost. We next saw the seed-testing establishment. Last year over 1,900 samples of different kinds had been tested, and the results given to the farmers, showing the percentage of good plants, weakly ones, and those that did not germinate. The process employed is that known as capillary attraction. After many experiments, this is found to answer best; it usually takes four days, but varies according to the state of the weather. A great many different varieties of grain are grown; indeed, I think almost every known variety of the different seeds have been tried. Those that have proved best suited to the climate are sent out, free of charge, to farmers in 3-lb. samples, along with a form of return which the farmer is asked to fill in and send back. This return gives information as to the dates of sowing, reaping, quantity, quality, &c. 2,600 samples were sent out in this way last year to various farmers all over Canada. Six pair of work horses are kept, none of which are pure-bred. One pair were said to be nearly pure Clydesdales, but, in my opinion, would not be considered so at home, although very good, serviceable, useful horses. These horses are not bred on the place, but bought in various parts of the Dominion, one team having only newly arrived from a horse ranch in Alberta. Cattle are well represented by all the principal breeds both of Britain and the Colonies. A good deal of time and money has been spent in getting them good and pure of their respective kinds, and the result is highly-satisfactory. Pigs are a very good show, and here, as in the cattle section, each variety is represented. Tamworth, Berkshire, Large White Yorkshire, Poland China, &c., pigs thrive extraordinarily well here, the trouble being to keep them low enough in condition for breeding. So much loose grain lying about, and it being so cheap and plentiful, they seem to come in for more than their share. At this particular season of the year there is little doing in the dairy department; the object of the specialist in charge is to make experiments in cheese and butter making, with a view to letting farmers have the benefit of his experience. He showed us his method of testing the amount of butter fat per-cent. contained in a sample of milk, which was a very pretty and interesting little exhibition. Milk is now being largely bought by creameries according to the amount of butter fat it contains. Perhaps the most interesting sight on the farm was the poultry house. Mr. Gilbert, the manager, is a native of Inverness, and came out to Canada in the year 1860. He thoroughly understands his

business, and is a most enthusiastic poultry-breeder. The conditions on which fowls are kept here are very different from the Old Country, as they cannot be allowed out of the houses during the winter, on account of the cold: in these circumstances it is necessary to keep them in a state as nearly resembling nature as possible by artificial means. Mr. Gilbert's ingenuity has been greatly tested in this line, but he has proved equal to the occasion, and his various contrivances to keep his charge in a healthy condition are most interesting to see. Tobacco has been tried for the first time on the farm this year, and to all appearance was doing well. A farm of this description must be of very great advantage to the farmers of the Dominion, as they need not waste time or money in making costly experiments, but by simply reading the annual reports made by the heads of the various departments, and acting according to the advice given there, they are put in a position of taking the most out of their holdings.

We left Ottawa on Wednesday, August 30th, at 1.15 a.m., per the Canadian Pacific Railway, for

Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, which lies about 1,300 miles to the west. The country through which the line passes is admirably described in their time-tables, and is of a wild, beautiful character. With the exception of a very small proportion, it is of very little value from an agricultural point of view, but looks like a country containing mineral wealth. We reached Winnipeg on Friday morning at 5.30 a.m., thus accomplishing the distance—1,300 miles—in 52 hours, being at the rate of 25 miles an hour. The cars on this line are beautifully fitted up, so that travellers can live on the train almost as comfortably as at home. Every morning a dining car is attached, on which meals of first-class-quality can be had for 75 cents each. In addition, the train stops at roadside stations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, when, if preferred, a good substantial meal can be had for 25 cents, or 1s.

The City and District.

We were met at Winnipeg by Mr. George J. Cox, Inspector, Crown Lands Office, Winnipeg, who had been appointed to conduct the Delegation over Manitoba and the North-West. He is thoroughly acquainted with the country, and has an excellent reputation as a cicerone, which he has fully maintained on this occasion. Indeed, I may safely say it was owing to his knowledge of, and experience in travelling over, the land that we were mainly enabled to get over the vast amount of country which we traversed in the comparatively short time at our disposal. During the course of the day we had an interview with Mr. H. H. Smith, Dominion Lands Commissioner, Winnipeg, at which our future movements were discussed. It was finally agreed that we should travel in two parties, and this arrangement was carried out: one section was composed of seven, and the other of six, delegates. Winnipeg, formerly known as Fort Garry, has a population of 29,000, and stands at an altitude of 200 ft. above sea level. In 1870 the site which the town now occupies was unbroken prairie, and the only buildings were the Hudson Bay Company's fort and a few Indian wigwams. During our stay here we visited Sir Donald Smith's farm, Silver Heights, lying

about four miles out of town. Unfortunately, the handsome residence which he had here, and to which there is a special line of rails, was burnt down last year, and has not been rebuilt. Our party was accompanied by Mr. James Fisher, representative of the county of Russell in the local Parliament, who pointed out and described the various places of interest on the way. The land on both sides of the road was occupied principally by market gardens, one of which we stopped at and examined, viz., Mr. Chadwick's, Deer Lodge. We saw tomatoes, cucumbers, &c., grown in the open air. Off a small plot of about 10 yards square Mr. Chadwick took 46 bushels of tomatoes, and from a similar plot of cucumbers had taken a barrel that morning. He mentioned that at the commencement of the season he got 10 cents each for the cucumbers, and at the time of our visit was receiving 50 cents a dozen. We saw the only herd of plain buffalo now in Canada on Sir Donald Smith's farm; they number four bulls, three cows, and two calves, and are now in a quite tame condition: we drove up quite close to them, and they took no notice. Two of the bulls are very fine specimens of their kind. It is a most extraordinary thing how these noble animals could be exterminated in such a vast country. Stories are told of their being simply killed by the thousand for the sake of the skin. Buffalo skins are now very rare, and cost about \$90 apiece. It would be a very paying business if they could be raised for the sake of the hide alone; this, however, seems to be an impossibility.

We arrived at Portage-la-Prairie on Saturday, September 2nd, and it was there that our work really began. The district round here, known as the Portage Plains, is one of the finest wheat-growing districts in Manitoba, and has now been under cultivation more or less for the last 20 years. There is no doubt that the soil is simply of first-class quality, about 18 in. rich black loam, resting on a subsoil of whitish clay. To me the land appeared of uniform character; but I was informed that this is not the case, and that even on adjoining farms there is a great deal of difference. This is caused by either the depression or height above the level: if the former, the place is too wet; and if the latter, the soil is light. Owing to this circumstance, it would be advisable for any intending settler to have some experience before purchasing, as, if not, he is liable to be imposed on. There are plenty of farms for sale, ranging in value from \$20 to \$30 per acre, according to quality. All the land here was homesteaded 15 to 20 years ago.

Among others, we called on Mr. F. Brydon, Section 7, Township 12, Range 7, west of the first principal meridian. (The explanation of these figures is to be found in any official book of information for intending settlers, and, to economise space, locations will be afterwards referred to in this Report by the figures giving the section, township, and range in their respective order.) We found him engaged in fixing up his steam engine and separator, preparatory to starting threshing on Monday morning. He farms 320 acres of land—210 under white crop, principally wheat, with a few acres black oats. The general system of farming at present pursued in this district is to sow as much oats as

will feed the horses; reserve a natural meadow of about one-sixth of the farm for cutting hay, or, if this is not possible, lay out a similar extent in timothy grass, which does well; and the remainder of the farm, consisting of about two-thirds of the whole, is laid out in wheat. The sections are usually fenced with three barbed wires stapled to posts set at about 16 ft. apart, the cost of which amounts to about 6 cents, or 3d., per yard. The wheat is stacked, immediately threshed out, and, as a rule, sold at the nearest elevator. If wished, the farmer can have it stored there, but this is not generally done. Wheat is divided into the following grades, viz.: Extra No. 1 hard; Nos. 1, 2, and 3 hard; Nos. 1 and 2 Northern, or soft; and Nos. 1, 2, and 3 frozen: prices varying according to grade. The price of wheat last year, delivered at the nearest elevator—for No. 2 hard, as Mr. Brydon's was graded—was 56-cents per bushel; that is, 18s. 8d. per quarter. Frozen wheat fetched 40 cents per bushel, or 13s. 4d. per quarter. Very little oats are sold, as they are all required for feeding purposes; any samples I saw were very inferior, the standard weight only being 34 lbs.; the season seems to be too short to bring them to proper maturity. The quantity per acre is much in excess of anything in Scotland, sometimes going as high as 100 bushels per acre, or 12½ quarters. The barley is also inferior, but not so much so as the oats. I am of opinion that if the proper seed was sown, and more attention paid to the cultivation, a good sample of barley could be raised. The colour of any samples I examined was very good, the deficiency being in the small and shrunken appearance of the grain. The land at present receives very little manure, the practice being to burn the straw: this must necessarily tell on the fertility of the soil sooner or later. Crops of wheat have been taken from the same ground for 19 years in succession, and the natural fertility of the soil is such that as yet there are only a few bushels of difference in the yield. The average crop 20 years ago would be about 30 bushels per acre; now it is about 24 bushels: this decrease is partly accounted for by the fact that it is only Red Fyfe wheat that is now grown, which, although of better quality, is not so prolific as the kinds which were formerly cultivated. The price of growing an acre of wheat, including seed—1½ to 2 bushels per acre—threshing, and delivering at the nearest elevator, is put down, according to Mr. Brydon, at £2; this calculation includes interest on capital and paying wages. As a general rule, farms are worked by the farmer and his family. This would leave, at the low prices for wheat ruling last year, a clear profit of 16s. per acre, if the average yield of 24 bushels per acre is taken. It is almost unnecessary to say crops vary here, as elsewhere. These figures I believe, from the testimony of several farmers, together with the appearance of the stooks in the field, to be very nearly correct; indeed, from the appearance of the fields, I would put down the returns at much more. The following gives an idea of the speed with which farming operations are carried on. As the summer season is short, the work must be done quickly, and the most improved labour-saving implements are employed. A gang plough, taking two furrows, each 14 in. wide and 5 in. deep, drawn by four horses, and driven by one man, will turn over 5 acres in a

day of 10 hours. One man with three horses will drill in 15 acres of seed, or broadcast and cover 18 acres, in a day. One man with a self-binder drawn by three horses will cut from 14 to 15 acres a day, and it is not an unusual thing to run the binders night and day during the wheat harvest. A steam threshing machine, with 14 men employed, will thresh from 1,500 to 2,000 bushels of wheat per day; one man is sufficient to attend the straw, which he draws away with a team of horses, in ricks, as it comes from the elevator. After the threshing is over the straw is burnt. Other operations are conducted in a similar style as regards speed. Things are not done so neatly as at home. A much longer stubble is left in the fields. The stooking is done very well; very few sheaves are to be seen lying on the ground. This is done so as to have the wheat of a good colour—a most important thing when it comes to be sold. A natural hay meadow will produce about $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons an acre on an average of years. These meadows are low-lying, and inclined to be marshy, so that they could not very well be used for anything else. The hay looks in appearance rather coarse, but stock thrive very well on it; it costs only the labour of cutting and putting up into stacks. If any is sold, which is seldom the case, from £1 to £2 per ton is got for it, according to the season. Timothy meadows are coming into favour a good deal, and when better understood will, to all appearance, do very well. When Mr. Brydon took up his homestead, 18 years ago, he stated that he was in debt. He has now 23 head of cattle, 12 horses, 3 foals, and a considerable number of pigs; improved buildings, consisting of barn, granary, stables, implement shed, and good dwelling-house; 320 acres of land, which would readily sell at \$25 per acre; improved implements, including steam threshing machine, which cost £360; and he is now clear of debt. These facts speak for themselves, and show what has been done here in the past. Since wheat has sunk so low in price, farmers here, as elsewhere, are turning their attention to other things. There seems to be a general feeling in the country that mixed farming would give a better return. Hitherto capital was scarce, and farmers had to meet their engagements: the result was, the land was punished in order to do this, and wheat was raised every year in succession. It is being discovered that this cannot last, so that it will not surprise me much to learn that mixed farming has taken the place of wheat-raising in a few years. From all I can learn, the country is well adapted for dairying, and cattle and pig feeding. All kinds of stock thrive well. The few sheep kept round here look well, the difficulty being to keep them thin enough for breeding purposes. Two-year-old fat cattle sell in the spring for about £8 a head; fat lambs for the local demand at £1 a piece; and pigs sell just now at 18s. 6d. per 100 lbs., live weight. Considering that keep costs little or nothing, these prices ought to pay well. Crops, as a rule, are pretty safe from frost in this part. Mr. Brydon, in 18 years' experience, did not wholly lose his crop in any year, but in four years it was partially injured—he calculated to the extent of about 20 per cent. Rain in harvest is almost unknown. In the Portage Plains, all the water for drinking and domestic purposes is got from wells about 10 ft. to 20 ft.

below the surface. With the exception of the Assiniboine River, there is no running water. What are called "sloughs" intersect the country at intervals; these are stagnant ditches or ponds containing water, and in the fall of the year are literally alive with wild ducks and other water-fowl. Numerous coveys of prairie chicken are to be found all over the fields; this bird is of the grouse family, and makes excellent eating.

The next farm we stopped at belonged to Mr. A. E. Mellon; he was engaged in threshing out his crop, and, as he was not the possessor of a threshing machine of his own, had engaged one. These machines travel the country during the season, in a similar manner to the way they do at home. The mill-owner provides the necessary hands, 14 all told, the farmer only having to provide meat; a travelling caboose is used for sleeping quarters. The price paid is 4 cents per bushel for oats, and 5 cents for wheat. The threshing outfit costs \$2,600; the engine, being a traction one, in this case cost more; a good many of those I saw in use were portable. The mill-owner calculates that he ought to earn about \$60 per day, and his working expenses amount to \$26 per day; his season only lasts for two months. We drove over about 20 miles of country, taking samples of the wheat occasionally, and found them very good and equal in quality.

One of the sights that strikes the traveller on first entering this country is the number of huge buildings which he sees at almost every station along the lines of railway.

These, he is informed, are grain elevators. As some of our party expressed a desire to have a look at the interior, it was decided to examine one, which had a flour mill attached, both the property of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. However imposing the outside looked, we were all considerably astonished when we saw the elaborate and complete machinery inside. We first looked over the engine, which is of 300 horse-power, built by the Goldie & MacCulloch Co., Ltd., Galt, Ontario. It is supplied with steam from three boilers, two of which are in use at a time, the third one being cleaned out. As water is scarce, and, owing to the alkali contained in it, injurious to the boilers, a condenser is used, and the same water returned to the boiler; also, the water used in cooling the condenser is used twice over, it being emptied into a large pond outside, to cool, and pumped in again. The mill was renovated last year, the whole building and machinery costing \$150,000, or something over £30,000. The wheat goes through six or seven machines, being made into flour, being gradually ground finer at each process, and all foreign substances are removed as it leaves each machine. Only the best wheat is used, and two kinds of flour produced, viz., first and second. In the busy season this mill runs night and day, and when doing so can make 700 barrels of flour in the 24 hours. As a general rule, it takes $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat to make a barrel of flour; so that 3,150 bushels, or nearly 400 quarters of wheat, are converted into flour daily. A barrel contains 196 lbs. of flour. The price got for the bran at the mill is \$10 per ton for first, and \$8 per ton for 2nd quality. Nearly all the flour produced at this mill goes to the West Coast, and

finds a market in Vancouver, China and Japan, &c., very little finding its way East. The grain elevator, which adjoins the mill, and is supplied with power by the same engine, is capable of holding 175,000 bushels of grain. Grain can be taken in on both sides of the building—on the one side from the railway, and on the other from farmers' waggons; 1,320 bushels an hour can be taken in from the railway, and about 4,000 bushels a day from farmers. The grain is emptied into a shoot from the waggons, from which it passes into an elevator, through a dressing machine, and into a huge hopper, where it is weighed. The seller has the option of taking away the dressings with him if he wishes. Delivery is taken so quickly that by the time the seller has his waggon emptied and his sacks collected he can have the weight of his dressed wheat. All grain is bought by weight here; as yet I have not seen a bushel measure, even in the elevator; I was told they had one, but, being so seldom in use, they could not lay their hands on it. Labourers in the company's employment receive \$1½ per day; skilled labour, such as millers, &c., \$2, \$2½, to \$2¾ per day. The concern is managed by Mr. R. S. Thomson, who received us very kindly, and took great trouble to explain things to us. We are also indebted to the kindness of Mr. R. J. Meyaw, head miller, who showed us over his department. The company owns two mills—this one, and another at Keewatin. The Keewatin mill is driven by water power, and is much larger, the output being 1,500 barrels of flour per day. Most of this finds a market in Eastern Canada and Britain.

*Farms near
Westbourne.*

On leaving the mill we drove off in a north-westerly direction, our next halting place being fixed for Westbourne, 25 miles distant, a station on the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. As there is no hotel here, it was

arranged that we should put up with Mr. Davy, manager of the Sanford Ranch. The country is very similar to that already described for the first 20 miles—fine flat land, evidently at one time the bed of a lake, all laid out in huge wheat-fields. With the exception of one or two fields, all were of the same excellent uniform quality. In my judgment, there was very little difference in the samples we took from the fields passing along; the grain is small in size, hard as flint, and a good colour. We stopped for lunch at Mr. T. MacCartney's farm—Section 25, Township 13, Range 8—Portage-la-Prairie. As Mr. MacCartney was working in the fields, on finishing our lunch we drove out to see him. As this is a farm very similar to Mr. Brydon's, it is unnecessary to go over the same ground again. He farms 320 acres now, and has been here for the last 16 years; considers he got an average return of about 30 bushels of wheat per acre then; last year, which was under an average, the return was 23 bushels. When he started, his capital was \$100; he now has his place clear, and winters over 40 head of cattle. His neighbour—35, 13, 8—Mr. James Bray, farms 700 acres, 620 acres of which is in white crop, the balance being in grass. Started 15 years ago with a capital of \$350; has now the following stock:—26 Jersey cattle, 24 of which are milkers, 17 horses, 30 Oxford Down sheep, and 30 pigs. He gets from 20 to 30 cents per lb. for butter. These men own between them a threshing machine

costing \$2,200. Mr. Bray is of opinion that sheep would do well. He gets \$5 a piece for lambs, and 10 to 12 cents per lb. for dressed mutton: this is to supply the local demand. After driving about 20 miles, the character of the country changes, assuming a more rolling aspect, and is more adapted for stock-raising. There is a good deal of small rough timber, a considerable area not having yet come under the plough. About 5 p.m. we reached Mr. Walter Lynch's place—7, 14, 8. He keeps a herd of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, consisting of about 30 head of cows and a stock bull. During the summer—that is, from May to November—they are out on grass, and when we saw them they were looking in remarkably good breeding condition. In winter they are housed, and fed on natural hay, with a little bruised corn. Mr. Lynch has a reputation all over the colony for the excellent quality of his stock, a half-brother of his stock bull, "Village Hero," being first at the Chicago Exhibition this year. He gets from \$100 to \$125 for his bull calves; most of his heifer calves he keeps for his own use, and when he sells any he gets a higher figure than for his bulls. Mr. Rutherford, V.S., and M.P.P. for this district, accompanied us as far as Mr. Lynch's farm; he drove his own horse, and I had a seat with him. I had a long conversation with him on a variety of subjects, and he gave me much useful information regarding the country, and his ideas of the best modes of farming. Mr. Rutherford had refused the other day £70 for the mare he was driving; she was certainly a beauty, and a good goer. The high prices paid for horses here are surprising; indeed, they are nearly as dear as in Britain. It is quite common to get from £90 to £100 for a pair of horses that are not by any means out of the way as regards quality.

The Sanford Ranch extends to about 30,000 acres, and is *The Sanford Ranch.* stocked with 300 horned cattle and 200 horses. In the buildings there is accommodation for 200 horses, capacious barns, and a large piggery. Hitherto a great many more cattle were kept, but a change is now contemplated, and cattle are going to make way for horses. Senator Sanford owns the ranch in fee simple, and will dispose of it in lots to intending purchasers. His intention is to dispose of the whole as he can find suitable buyers. The cattle are all wintered out in the woods near Lake Manitoba; they get as much hay as they can take, and the ice on the lake is broken every day to supply them with water. It is found, after considerable experience, that they thrive best in this way; it is a rare thing for many of them to succumb to the severity of the season. The horses are all housed during the winter, and fed on hay, oats, &c. Owing to the low price, no cattle were disposed of last year. The average price received for two-year-olds is from £7 to £8 a head in a lean condition. Fifty horses were sold last year, averaging \$300 a pair, or £30 a piece: they are four years old, and broken, as a rule, when sold. The stallion in use for the last few years was a cross between a Cleveland Bay horse and a "Royal George" mare. This year a Yorkshire cob, imported from England, has been used. Clydesdales have been tried, but were found not to suit. The manager, Mr. Davy, intends to go into pork-raising extensively, as he thinks there is money in it, and in my opinion he is

not far wrong. Prices are high just now, $4\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, or 22s., being given per 100 lbs., live weight, for pigs. He has several different breeds, including Tamworth, Yorkshire, and Berkshire, all of good quality. There is so much cheap grain that pigs are bound to pay well.

Whilst waiting for the train, Mr. Davy gave us some of his experiences before becoming manager of this ranch. He had a farm of 1,200 acres in Southern Manitoba, and had it all under crop. On Sunday, 22nd August, 1886, the whole was utterly ruined by frost; as he was only starting, principally on borrowed capital, the result was disastrous. He put in the next year's crop, and it turned out well, but it was not sufficient to put him on his legs again, so he had to quit, a ruined man. He now thinks that if he had gone more into mixed farming he would have pulled through.

At Westbourne practically commences a district of mixed farming. Along the line of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway system, from this point westward, we traverse a country of greater diversity of natural features than is exhibited on the great wheat-growing plains to the east.

The Neepawa District.

We got on the train at Westbourne Station at 12.20 p.m., and, proceeding westward, reached Neepawa, a rising town of 1,000 inhabitants, about 2 p.m. The country we passed through was principally adapted to cattle and sheep raising. In the afternoon we drove out, accompanied by Mr. John A.



FARM SCENE, MANITOBA.

Davidson, M.P.P. for this district. Our route lay to the north of the town, passing through an entirely wheat-growing country. Near the

The following is a cutting from a local newspaper—the *Neepawa Register*, Jan. 27th, 1893—giving Mr. Munroe's ideas of agricultural costs. They may seem to us to be set down at a remarkably low rate, but, from many inquiries made, I have come to the conclusion that he is nearly correct.

David Munroe, of Rosedale, sent the *Patron's Advocate* the following statement regarding the expense and profit of wheat-growing, &c.:—

Wheat Crop.

 $D\tau.$

Total cost	\$6.69
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Profit, per acre, above interest	<u>\$3.76</u>
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Equal to 18·8 per cent. on investment.

Hay Crop.

120 acres yield 172½ tons.				
Value of hay, 172 tons, at \$5	\$862.50
Cost of mowing, raking, and stacking, at 70 cents per ton	...	...	...	120.75
				<hr/>
				\$741.75
Value, per acre, on 120 acres	...	...	...	\$6.18
Less interest, taxes, &c.	...	...	...	1.70
				<hr/>
Net profit, per acre, above interest	...	...	...	\$4.48
Equal to 22¼ per cent. on investment.				

The hay is natural grasses. Has been cut every year for the past 10 or 12 years. We begin mowing from July 25th to August 1st. Since the farm has been in my possession (past four years) the crop has been better each successive year. The crop is not all sold yet, but the portion sold has been at \$5 per ton at the stack. None has ever been sold at less; while that kept till spring has usually brought from \$2 to \$3 more per ton.

For next year we have for wheat 250 acres nearly all rolled and harrowed, 130 acres of it breaking, 80 acres for summer fallow, 30 acres for oats, potatoes, &c.

It must always be borne in mind that the land is much easier worked here, being uniform in quality and free from stones. Mr. Munroe is of opinion that mixed farming would suit this country well, and he intends going in for it as soon as possible. This, as already stated, is the general opinion of all the farmers I have spoken to. The stock on the farm consists of 15 head of cattle, 8 of which are cows, 8 working horses (including 1 Shire stallion and 2 pure-bred mares), 4 young horses, and 11 pigs. One hired man is employed on the farm all the year round, and two for eight months; in addition to which four boys of the family help, the eldest being 19 years of age, and the youngest 10. Hired men get \$20 a month, are boarded in the house, and treated in all respects like one of the family. There is a natural hay meadow of 120 acres on the farm. Mr. Munroe's farm is rather better than the average of the district.

Further Information. The forenoon of next day — 6th September — was spent in the vicinity of the town. We saw some grass-fed cattle that were *en route* for the British market; they were hardly fat enough, and were inclined to be coarse; the heaviest of the lot was put on the steel-yard, and weighed over 1,900 lbs., live weight. While out, we met Mr. Donald Fraser on his way to the hotel to lunch with us. Afterwards I got the following particulars from him:—Home-stead, 15, 16, 10. Total acreage in farm, 800, of which 500 acres are under cultivation. He has been 11 years in the country, eight of which he has been engaged in agriculture. His capital on starting amounted to \$150, and he now estimates it at \$22,000. He usually gets \$25 for his two-year-old cattle, and \$30 for cows in milk. He has held over his last year's crop of wheat, which in itself is a sign that he has considerable money to work upon. The price of horses seems to have sunk very considerably within the last year. The probable causes of this are that, when the country was filling up, horses were needed by the new settlers, and had to be imported: now there are a sufficient number raised to supply the home demand; in the second place, a great

number of horses were required to supply the tramway system in the large cities: this is now done away with, owing to the introduction of electric cars. Up to last year the price for a good horse, well broken to all work, was \$250; now a similar horse can be bought at from \$125 to \$150. Farm servants get \$200 a year from Mr. Fraser. He is of opinion that if they have ambition to get into a farm, and make up their minds to work hard for a year or two, they have an excellent chance here; but, if their object is to remain in service, they are more comfortable at home.

At 2 p.m. we went for a drive to the south-west of the town, to visit a farm belonging to Mr. John A. Davidson. *A Drive round the District.* The country presented very much the same features as in our drive of yesterday. Perhaps the crops were not quite so good. We were told, however, that this part is remarkably free from summer frosts. We passed through a strip of country here, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad by about 6 long, where the crops had been totally destroyed by a hailstorm. The fields had been apparently flattened to the ground, and were coming up in second growth. These storms are quite local, and there is no accounting for their action. They come down in strips, with long intervals between; the next place where any damage was done on this occasion being 20 miles eastward, at Gladstone. A Mutual Insurance has been got up by farmers against them, so that anybody so inclined can in this way get compensation. Mr. Davidson's farm is situated on Section 31, 13, 15, W. It is his intention to go in for winter-feeding cattle and pigs. This is a new idea in this part, and he is going to give it a thorough trial. The buildings now in course of erection will cost, when finished, about \$2,500; this includes all necessary machinery, and windmill for driving same. The principal building is 60 ft. by 70 ft., the ground floor being partially underground. There are stalls provided here for 60 head of cattle; the space above, which is 16 ft. high in the wall, is to be used as a storehouse for hay, corn, ensilage, &c. A root house is to be constructed underground, with a passage leading into the byre. The foundation is excavated out of the side of a hill, so that access to the barn above can be had from the level on one side; on the other the manure can be taken away from the level of a tunnel running through the centre of the byre, and about 6 ft. beneath the floor. The machinery consists of a pulper, corn-crusher, and straw-cutter, driven by a windmill. The piggery will accommodate 150 feeding pigs and 15 sows. Mr. Davidson's plan is to buy in two-year-old cattle during the summer and autumn; this can be done just now for about \$20 to \$25 a head. He estimates that he can feed them for the winter five months at a cost of \$12 a head; and that at present prices he will get \$56 for them in spring—that is, \$4 per 100 lbs., live weight. The labour required for running this farm is estimated at three men in summer and two in winter. Of course this is a new idea, but, in my opinion, is a step in the right direction. All the manure made, which will be considerable, will be applied to the land. The feed for the cattle will consist of cut turnips, cut green straw and hay, crushed grain, and ensilage made from Indian corn (green) and sunflowers. On our way back to town we

passed a number of farms with very comfortable houses and suitable and commodious farm buildings; these are generally built of wood, with an occasional one of brick and stone. Spruce, tamarac (a wood resembling larch), and poplar of large size are found in the north-western parts of the province of Manitoba, and from these sources timber is supplied to the various wood mills of the province. Throughout the remaining districts, poplar wood suitable for building, fencing, and general farming requirements is almost universally found.

At 8 a.m. on the 7th we left Neepawa, and drove in a westerly direction about 18 miles to Minnedosa, a town of considerable size, with many handsome stone, &c., buildings. It is situated on the Little Saskatchewan River, and looks very picturesque nestling in the valley and overlooked on three sides by the surrounding highlands. The country we passed through was, at the commencement, cultivated. As we got on it assumed a more rolling appearance, and less cultivation was gone in for. We encountered several large herds of cattle grazing on the natural grass. I was much struck with their sleek appearance and fine, glossy coats of hair; at home I would have at once said they were getting cake. The natural grass must be very nutritious here, though to look at it one would not think so, it looks so dried up. Further on the ground was wooded in clumps, between which you could occasionally see the wheat-fields and settlers' houses peeping out. This is a much more interesting country than the plains below, and, from the abundance of hay and water, is much more suitable for mixed farming. The patches of wood and scrub would afford excellent shelter for stock, both from the hot sun in summer and the cold winds and snow in winter.

In the afternoon we drove out to the north of the town, and saw over Mr. R. P. Fraser's farm—1, 16, 18. He holds 1,500 acres, and has been in the country 12 years. This year he has been rather unfortunate, having met with considerable loss through hail, which he roughly estimates at about £600 sterling. This is his first experience in that direction, and hitherto he has been making money. More dependence is placed on mixed farming here, a great many of the farmers going in for cattle-raising. There are few sheep in the country just now, but there seems to be a general feeling that they would suit well. Mr. Fraser sold 150 last year of various ages, realising on an average \$7 a head. Owing to the severity of the winter, they have to be housed during the night, and are hand-fed with natural hay.

The Mayor of Minnedosa, who accompanied us, proposed on our way home to have some shooting. He is a keen sportsman, having won the gold medal at Winnipeg last year as the champion shot of Manitoba, which means a good deal. The season for prairie chicken shooting does not commence until the 15th of September, so we had to confine ourselves to ducks. They abound here in all the marshes and small lakes. On arriving at a good slough, as they are termed in this country, the party, which consisted of three guns, placed themselves in good positions round the edge, hidden by the long reeds. A commencement was made by firing

a shot to put up the ducks, after which they flew round the water in circles, giving each of us an opportunity of displaying his skill. Before darkness put an end to our enjoyment we had secured quite a good bag.

Next day we had a long drive round the country, accompanied by the Mayor and several of the leading citizens of the town, including a Mr. Brown, who is engaged in the cattle trade with Britain; he owns a farm about nine miles from town, at which we put up and had lunch. The land in this vicinity is more hilly than anything we have yet seen in Manitoba, in some places resembling the Highlands of Scotland, only not nearly so wild. At Mr. Brown's place they were busily engaged in threshing out wheat. I had the curiosity to time the operation, and discovered that they were putting it through at the rate of 3 bushels per minute.

On Saturday, the 9th, at 2.30 p.m., we got on the train and joined other three delegates, viz.: Mr. Guiry, whom we had left behind; Mr. Waddington, Derbyshire, and Mr. Faulks, Rutland, both of whom had left England by a later steamer. With this addition our party numbered eight, and we continued together until we broke up on our way home. After leaving Minnedosa, proceeding westwards, the line goes through a level country, slightly inclined to be marshy. This draws frost, so that this part is more suited to stock-raising. The train had to come to a standstill several times in order to remove cattle from the track: except in a few places, the railway is not yet fenced. We reached Binscarth Station about 9 p.m., and drove to Russell, a town 12 miles to the north, which we reached at about 11 p.m., rather tired. We spent two days in the neighbourhood of Russell, which is a country admirably adapted for dairy farming and stock-raising. Hay is plentiful, and all the stock we saw, which was not much, was in a very thriving condition. The appearance of the grass at this time of year is not very good, but the sleek appearance of the cattle shows it must be very nutritious. A number of grass-fed three-year-old cattle we saw were quite fat. We called on Mr. Wm. Custar—6, 21, 28—farming 320 acres, 180 of which he has under cultivation. He settled here 10 years ago with very little capital, homesteading 160 acres, and pre-empting the adjoining quarter-section. He values his land now at \$10 per acre, and considers himself worth about \$6,000. The following are the prices of the principal agricultural products:—Two-year-old cattle, \$27 to \$30; dressed bacon, 14 cents per lb.; butter, 24 cents per lb.; wheat, per bushel, 49 cents last year, and 74 to 80 cents the previous year, average yield per acre being from 20 to 24 bushels. A cow yields about 9 lbs. of butter per week. A good agricultural labourer is paid at the rate of \$22 to \$25 per month for the year round; and a man taken on at harvest would have \$1½ a day, and board. There are no homesteads now to take up in the immediate vicinity of Russell, but large quantities of unbroken land could be purchased at about \$5 per acre, more or less, according to quality. On the opposite side of the Assiniboine River we were shown a large tract of country open for settlement; it is traversed by the Harrowby District Railway; it appeared to be good undulating land, suitable for wheat and cattle.

*Farms near
Russell.*

Dr. Barnardo's Home for boys lies about four miles to the south-east of the town. The farm buildings, which are large and well arranged, are on Section 30, 30, 28, W. Dr. Barnardo has got a grant from Government of 12 square miles of country, and yearly brings out from London from 70 to 100 boys; gives them a year's training on this farm, when they are supposed to be able to do for themselves. We were shown round by Mr. Struthers, manager, and Mr. Wm. Blyth, farm superintendent. The following stock is kept:—70 milk cows, 2 ordinary bulls, and 1 very fine pedigree Shorthorn bull, which was presented to the doctor by Lord Polwarth; 230 cattle, 150 sheep, 45 pigs, 24 horses and colts. 600 acres are under cultivation, 100 of which are under wheat; the other crops grown are rye, oats, and barley, with a few acres of turnips, and about 70 acres are summer-fallowed each year. There is a creamery in connection with the farm, which uses up all the surplus milk, in addition to large quantities received from surrounding farmers. The output of butter is 270 lbs. a day in summer, and 56 in winter. A market is got for it in Victoria and on the Pacific Coast, at 24 cents per lb. at the creamery, with a weekly delivery. The quality of the butter is very good; the only fault is, that it is too salt, probably in order to make it keep in the hot weather. The following prices are given to farmers for milk:—In April, May, June, and July, 60 cents per 10 gallons; August and September, 70 cents; October and November, 80 cents; and 75 lbs. of skim-milk is returnable from every 100 sent in. During the winter the milk comes in frozen, and is paid for at the rate of 85 cents per 100 lbs. The turnips on the farm this year are not an average crop, as they were twice destroyed by the cut-worm, and what we saw was the result of the third sowing. They were only beginning to bulb, and would be not much bigger than oranges. This is the first year the cut-worm has appeared in the country.

Assessipi. Assessipi, on the Shell River, lies 19 miles north of Russell, and is a small place, consisting of a general store, a flour and saw mill, with a few houses. On our way there we called on Mr. A. Seeter, who farms 320 acres. Mr. Seeter took up this place nine years ago, homesteading a quarter-section, and pre-empting another; he has now 160 acres in crop, 9 horses, 1 cow, and 2 pigs, with the usual implements. Last year his wheat made 40 cents per bushel. He stated that his clear income from the farm amounted to \$1,000 per annum. On crossing the Shell River, the country is entirely devoted to cattle-grazing, for which it seems very well suited, the grass being good, and plenty of cover, hay, and river frontage. There are 30 miles of land to the north of Assessipi, bounded on the one side by the Shell River, and on the other by the Assiniboine, which is open for homesteading. The distance between the rivers varies from 9 to 15 miles. As it was necessary that we should return to Russell on the same day, we could not go very far up this tract, but I saw sufficient to convince me of the nutritive quality of the grass. We called on Mr. James Smith—4, 23, 28. He holds 160 acres, which he now entirely grazes. Some of his cattle are very well bred. He showed us two four-year-old steers which he had

just sold for £12 a head. In Scotland they would have been worth more than double, and both in breeding and quality would stand well at our Christmas shows; they had received nothing but grass. The system pursued here is to let the cattle run in summer time on the prairie; in winter they are hand-fed with natural hay, but not housed. After experience, this method is found to answer best.

*Farms on the
Carberry Plain.*

On Wednesday, September 13th, we left Russell at 2.30 a.m. by rail for Carberry, *via* Neepawa. After a very tedious journey, the greater part of which we performed at the rate of 10 miles an hour, we reached the latter place at 2 p.m., and had lunch at our old hotel, starting immediately afterwards to drive across country to Carberry, a town on the Canadian Pacific Railway, 33 miles to the south. The land which we passed through on our drive was at first of a light sandy nature, until we struck the Carberry Plain, when we came into a grand wheat-growing country; miles and miles of wheat-fields extended on every side, all seemingly of equal quality. The Carberry Plain, originally known as the "Big Plain," is 70 miles long by 40 miles wide, and is very similar to the Portage Plain as to soil and methods of farming. We reached our destination at about 7 p.m., and were all glad to avail ourselves of the comforts of a hotel, after our fatiguing journey. Carberry (1,000 population) is a busy little town, which has increased in population very rapidly in the past, and, from the number of new buildings in course of erection, is very likely to continue to do so in the future. It is a great grain-exporting centre, having handled last year no fewer than 1,500,000 bushels. Its five elevators are capable of storing 200,000 bushels, and its flour mill can turn out 250 barrels of flour per day. The surrounding plain—which, as already stated, is 2,700 square miles in extent—contains some of the finest wheat farms in Manitoba. Mr. H. W. White, ex-Mayor of the town, whose place we first visited, and who accompanied us during the remainder of the day, took first prize at the Winnipeg Exhibition last year for his wheat. The Dominion Government have since purchased from him 100 bushels, at \$1 per bushel, for distribution at the Chicago Exhibition. Nearly all the farms visited presented a home-like appearance, much care having been bestowed on the gardens and general surroundings. As a rule, in the North-West, farm-houses give one the impression of having been dropped from the sky, and the fact of the grass being trampled down a little more in their immediate vicinity is the only external indication of the inhabitants. Mr. George Hope—1, 11, 15—Carberry, has a place very much in contrast to this. He originally came from Roxburghshire, but has farmed in Ontario for 21 years, and has been on his present place for 15 years. His garden is a perfect treat to visit. He grows small fruit and vegetables, such as cabbage, onions, carrots, pumpkins, and beetroot, to perfection. Apples won't do in this part of Canada, the summer not being sufficiently long for them to come to maturity, and the trees generally get destroyed when three or four years old by frost. Mr. Hope also informed me that he has tried on several occasions to grow melons, but has failed. We saw a number of young poplar trees raised from the

seed this year. They stood fully a foot above ground. A number are planted round the house, with a pretty avenue leading up to it from the road, and the effect is very pleasing. I am of opinion that a good deal more of this sort of thing could be done, with advantage to the country, both affording shelter and pleasing the eye. The average yield of wheat here is from 20 to 25 bushels per acre, and the crops are not much interfered with by frosts or hail. Gophers are only a trouble in newly settled parts, when they come in from the open and cut up whole fields; any country which has been under cultivation for some time is not troubled much, as the settlers soon dispose of them by means of poison and trapping in the spring. I was told a story as to the habits of this curious little rodent, which I give here for what it is worth. They live in holes in the ground, and resemble our squirrel very much, only the tail is short, like a weasel's. During winter the frost penetrates into the ground to a depth of from 6 to 7 ft., and, as the gophers only go down half that distance, the result is that they are frozen in winter. My informant stated that he has taken them into the house quite stiff, and to all appearance dead, but on being put near the stove they have melted and apparently returned to life. The next few places we called at, we were rather unfortunate in not finding the proprietors at home, but saw some good cattle; they have to be all housed in winter. As there is not much natural hay here, timothy meadows are laid down on nearly every farm, and present a very good appearance; the yield is from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 tons per acre. We had our lunch at Mr. Adam MacKenzie's place; he unfortunately was away from home himself, so that we could only have a general look-round. Mr. MacKenzie evidently does not approve of elaborate buildings, preferring the primitive style; his byres and stables being constructed principally of straw, supported by railings. I am told, when this covers up with snow in winter, that they keep the stock warm and comfortable. The housing of implements did not receive very much attention, and considerable loss must result every year from the damage done to valuable articles, such as steam engines, binders, waggons, &c., from exposure to the elements. On the whole, I was much struck by the agricultural value of this district, and the prosperous condition of the people. Water is obtainable of very good quality at depths varying from 15 ft. at the town, to 40 ft. at the north end of the plain. Lumber costs \$24 per 1,000 ft. A good team of horses, 1,400 lbs. weight, about \$300. A good man's wages, from \$200 to \$240 a year, and board; men as a rule are easily got. Soft coal costs \$7 a ton; hard, \$11. Land varies from \$12 to \$20 per acre, according to situation and quality. Sheep, which thrive well, are being introduced. Cross ewes just now cost from \$6 to \$6.50 a head.

After an hour's ride in the train we reached *Brandon and District.* Brandon, on Thursday, 15th, in the evening. The next day the members of the Delegation inspected the Government Experimental Farm. It is situated about a mile from the town of Brandon, on the north side of the Assiniboine River. As in the case of the farm at Ottawa, the situation has been carefully chosen with a view to testing the

growth of all kinds of crop on various soils, and I think the Government have been particularly happy in their choice on this occasion. The ground is situated on the face of a hillside, and extends to the valley below, so that the soil varies from a deep loam of a clayey nature in the valley to drifting sand on the heights; the subsoil is chiefly marly loam, mixed with limestone. 620 acres have been set aside for the purposes of the farm, and already, after only four years' work, nearly the half is in cultivation. We were shown round by the energetic manager, Mr. S. A. Bedford, and first examined the

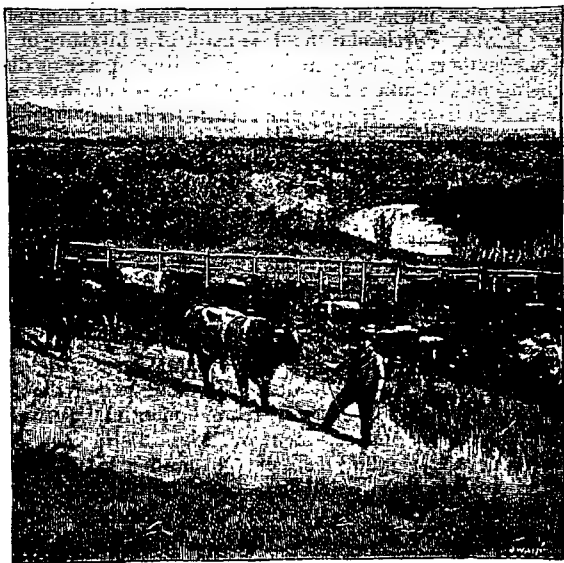


GRAIN ELEVATOR, BRANDON.

buildings, which are very complete. Power for driving the machinery, for cutting, pulping, &c., is derived from a windmill. Pure-bred cattle of the various breeds, including Shorthorn, Holstein, Polled Galloway, and Ayrshire, are kept. The objects of the farm are similar to those already described in connection with Ottawa, particular attention being bestowed on grain, grasses, roots, and trees.

As we had some time to spare on our return to town, we had a look through Mr. John A. Christie's saw-mill. The labour-saving machinery in use here is simply wonderful. The working year lasts from 15th May to 1st November, and in that time the average output is about 6,000,000 ft. inch-thick board measure. Nearly all the wood used is spruce, known to us as white-wood, and the prices received at the mill are \$16 per 1,000 ft. wholesale, and \$20 retail, for undressed boards 1 in. thick, and \$2 more per 1,000 ft. for dressing. Wood of all sorts is calculated and sold by board measure. Cedar shingles, imported from the Pacific Coast, are sold at \$4 per 1,000 retail, and

\$2.25 wholesale. All the logs used in this mill come down the Assiniboine a distance of 800 miles. The country to the south of Brandon is splendidly adapted to arable farming, consisting of rolling prairie, with hills in the distance. We stopped at the Matheson Sheep Farm, where a herd of 400 pure-bred Shropshires are kept. They have been imported from the best flocks in England, and succeed very well here. Disease of any kind is almost unknown, and they have only to be dipped once a year, in spring. The average return of lambs is $1\frac{3}{4}$ per ewe. The flock are summered at Oak Lake, 60 miles west, and are brought down here about this time and hand-fed on hay and oats in the straw. The sheds in which they are kept are open, so that they can move about at will and not get too warm.



CATTLE IN THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY.

*Indian Head
and Qu'Appelle.*

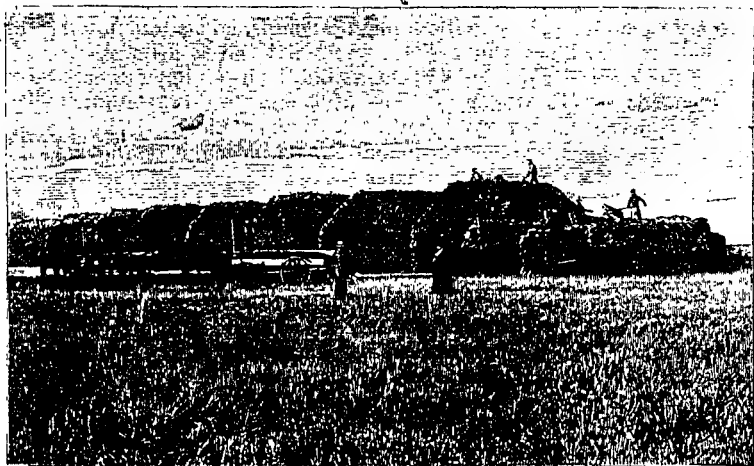
Our next stop was at Indian Head, Assiniboia, a small town 180 miles west of Brandon. About half a mile north-east of the railway station is another Government Experimental Farm, 680 acres

in extent, of which 500 acres are under cultivation. The soil is of a more uniform character than any of the other experimental farms visited, probably for the reason that it is difficult to get in this neighbourhood, within a given radius, very much diversity of soil. It is a sandy loam, varying from light to heavy, and resting on a clay subsoil. We were shown round by the manager, Mr. Angus MacKay, who gave me a great deal of reliable and trustworthy information regarding the country round. Pure-bred cattle of three

varieties—viz., Polled Angus, Shorthorn, and Holsteins—are kept. Mr. MacKay is of opinion that, for general purposes, the Shorthorn is best suited to the country, combining to a great extent both fattening and milking qualities. The Polled Angus thrive well, and here, as elsewhere, make excellent butcher's beasts. The Holsteins are, in my opinion, a very rough lot, in general configuration resembling a buffalo; they are said to be good milkers. Average yield of wheat per acre in this district is 30 bushels, barley 40 bushels, and oats 50 bushels; and the standard weights, 60 lbs., 48 lbs., and 34 lbs. per bushel, respectively. The best grass for making hay of here is *Bromus inermis*; it lasts well, and gives sometimes as high as 3½ tons per acre. Timothy does not suit, as after the first couple of years it runs out. Mr. MacKay is having a new piggery put up just now, of concrete; and I was much surprised to learn that this concrete, which sets nearly as hard as Portland cement, is made of a mixture of sand and the lime of the country. There are as yet no lime quarries discovered, the stones being picked up on the surface. Wages here are very much the same as in Manitoba. Before our return to Indian Head we had a drive round the country, calling on several farmers. The system of farming is to summer-fallow one-third of the land in cultivation, and take two white crops off in succession; the land is not ploughed for the second crop, the stubble being burnt off in the spring, and the seed drilled in. In this way two-thirds of the farm is in crop, and the remainder in summer fallow. So far as wheat-growing is concerned, this is the finest land we have seen, the average yield being about 30 bushels per acre, with almost entire freedom from frost or hail. Smut has sometimes appeared, but only when the farmer has failed to dress his seed with bluestone. We drove over a part of the celebrated Bell Farm, which has so often been described, and called at the house. Unfortunately, Major Bell was away from home, but we were kindly received and hospitably entertained by Mrs. Bell. The Bell and Brassey Farms occupy a great deal of the land available for wheat-growing round this immediate neighbourhood, but on both land can be bought for a very reasonable figure from \$10 upwards. In the afternoon we drove to Qu'Appelle, about 10 miles west, which was reached at 4.30 p.m. Most of the journey was through the Brassey Farm. After the first couple of miles the land was unbroken, and of a lighter and more undulating nature. Many bluffs, composed of tall poplar scrub, were dotted over the land, the trail at times going through an avenue over a hundred yards in length. The principal agricultural implement agent at Qu'Appelle is a Mr. MacDonald, from Forres, N.B. I had a look over his stock, and got much information as to the prices paid here. In some cases—as, for instance, the Massey-Harris binder—the price here is lower than in Britain by about £6. In the evening we had a long interview with Mr. Davidson, Member of the Legislative Assembly for this district, and several of the farmers round, gathering much information as to the success, or otherwise, of the various kinds of emigrants who come here. The conclusion came to was that a man ought to work the first year, and get as much of his homestead broken by contract as he can pay for; the following spring it is seeded, and by harvest he is able to go on his own ground, and from the sale of his

grain gets money to go on with. In this way experience is gained, and time given to pick up cheaply the necessary stock and implements.

From Qu'Appelle Station we drove to Fort Qu'Appelle, which lies about 18 miles to the north. On our way we called in at several farms, the first being occupied by Mr. John H. Fraser, a native of Ontario. He has been here for the last 12 years, and is now the owner of 480 acres of splendid wheat-growing land, of which 175 are in cultivation. He has had many ups and downs since coming here. Originally brought up as a machinist, to which he has devoted nine years of his life, he started farming without any previous



FRASER'S FARM, QU'APPELLE.

knowledge of the business. The first few years he worked on his homestead trying to raise wheat, but, having failed to make a success of it, had to betake himself to his trade again, as between one misfortune and another he had lost all his slender capital. When he had made a little by hiring out, he invested it in cattle, of which he managed to have nearly 100 head of various sorts. His intention was to winter them out, and for this purpose he had put up what, in his estimation, was a sufficient quantity of natural hay. The result was that in spring he had only three animals alive out of the lot. After these repeated losses, he still stuck to the country, and he now seems to be, as already stated, in a comfortable condition. His house is built of stone and lime, and is a good substantial building. This man's story made a considerable impression on my mind, and is a practical illustration of the great resources of the country. On leaving

Mr. Fraser's place, we entered on the Edgely Farm, 14,000 acres in extent, owned by the Messrs. Sykes, Stockport, Cheshire, and managed by Mr. W. C. Cameron, a native of Lochbroom, Ross-shire. This estate lies in Township 19, and Ranges 15 and 16, and is for sale in small portions at prices varying from \$5 to \$8 per acre: terms, one-third cash down, and balance distributed over six years, at 6 per cent. interest. Mr. Cameron works 1,500 acres, and his average returns are about 20 bushels of wheat per acre; his calculation of cost of raising an acre of wheat, including seed and hauling grain to nearest station, is \$7. A good four-year-old horse, broken to work, will fetch about \$150; two-and-a-half-year-old cattle, fairly well bred, off the grass, will make from \$25 to \$30. Men's wages, with board, for the year round, are at the rate of \$15 per month; and if engaged for only seven months, at the rate of \$23 per month. ~~The general appearance~~ of the country is rolling prairie, with numerous bluffs, and a fair number of marshes, in which hay can be cut; the soil is black loam, resting on clay. We reached Fort Qu'Appelle, an old Hudson Bay trading post, at about noon. It is now a place of about 400 inhabitants, with school, churches, and a flour mill. It is very nicely situated on a chain of lakes similar to the Caledonian Canal; indeed, it reminded me in many ways of Fort Augustus. After the eye being so long accustomed to the flat prairie, I can hardly describe the pleasing sensation of contrast and relief it was to gaze upon a clear sheet of water sparkling in the sun. The valley this chain of lakes is situated in is, I should say, about 400 ft. below the general level of the surrounding country, and the ground dips down at about an angle of 45 degrees in many places, and is cut into all sorts of peculiar shapes, resembling snowdrift. All gullies and valleys leading up to the prairie are thickly wooded with poplar, and the general effect, looking down from the brow of the hill, is very pretty and picturesque. After lunch Mr. Steven and I were driven out by Mr. Arch. MacDonald, factor for the Hudson Bay Company, and a native of Glengarry, in Scotland. The rest of the party were accommodated in vehicles belonging to other members of the community. We visited the Industrial School for the Education of Indian Children, situated about four miles east of Fort Qu'Appelle, on the lake shore. It is one of many similar institutions supported by the Dominion Government, and under the auspices of the various Churches. This one is Roman Catholic, and is managed by Father Hugouard, supported by several assistants, both male and female. Accommodation is provided for about 200 pupils, who receive, in the first place, a good general education; and, in addition, the boys are instructed in the various trades and agriculture by qualified teachers, and the girls instructed in domestic economy, sewing, &c. The whole place is kept scrupulously clean, and the garden and surrounding grounds were a treat to look at. Unfortunately, all the flowers which had been in full bloom yesterday were destroyed by a severe frost last night, the mercury having sunk several degrees below freezing point. One of the peculiarities of the climate is sudden extremes from heat to cold. In 24 hours the thermometer sometimes varies as much as 40 degrees. This is the first frost experienced here this season.

*Land available
for Homesteads.*

There is a considerable quantity of land open for homesteading to the north-west of the town, suitable for both wheat and cattle raising. The country we saw round Indian Head and Qu'Appelle is very suitable for settlement. The soil is good, the yield of wheat larger than anything we have yet seen, and the quality excellent. There appears to be an immunity from early summer frosts, which is one of the worst drawbacks the wheat-grower has to contend with, and all sorts of stock thrive well. Land can be homesteaded, or, still better, bought at a cheap rate near the railway.

Regina.

On the evening of Wednesday, the 20th September, we reached Regina (population, 2,200), the capital of the North-West Territories. The barracks of the North-Western Mounted Police, who have their headquarters here, are situated about a mile from the town. We called, and were shown round by the officer commanding. The full strength of the force is 1,000 officers and men, all told, but at present they only number a little over 800. The necessity for keeping these men is becoming less as the civilisation of the country proceeds, and I heard an opinion expressed that before long they would be very materially reduced. Their principal employment is to patrol the border between the United States and Canada, to prevent smuggling, the importation of cattle, &c., to look after the Indians, and keep order in the North-West generally. There is not much difficulty in getting recruits, the majority coming from the Old Country. A great number of the men in the ranks belong to good families in Britain. It was immediately outside the gate of the barracks that Riel, the leader of the half-breed rebellion in 1885, was executed. The Parliament Buildings and Governor's official residence are situated on the road leading to the barracks, and are both handsome and commodious buildings. Regina, 1,875 ft. above sea level, is situated in an immense plain, which extends all round as far as the eye can reach, without a single tree or bush to break the monotony. The soil is black loam, on a clay subsoil, and seems to be in most places rather stiff; on getting away back from the town the soil became rather lighter. I do not think this a suitable part for Scotch settlers, being so unlike anything at home, and I should imagine that the bare plain would have a very depressing effect on the spirits of those accustomed to a mountainous country.

*Farms about
Prince Albert.*

A branch line for Prince Albert, a prosperous settlement lying 240 miles in a northerly direction, joins the main line at Regina. We got on board the train at 7 p.m. on Friday for Prince Albert, which was reached next morning at 9 a.m. The town (of about 1,300 inhabitants) is situated on the north branch of the Saskatchewan River, in a pleasant valley. It is very straggling, being considerably over a mile in length; electric light is supplied by steam power. The river here flows at a rate of four miles an hour, and no doubt will sooner or later be utilised as a motive power for generating electricity. There is a probability that the Hudson Bay route will be opened up, which will make a great difference in the value of land in this district. The length of railway

required to reach the nearest port on Hudson Bay is about 500 miles. From statistics taken there for the last two years by Government officials, it has been discovered that the bay would be open for shipping for an average period of at least five months a year; if this railway ever comes into operation, Prince Albert will be nearer the British market than Montreal. In the afternoon we drove out south of the town about 10 miles, calling at the farm occupied by Mr. MacKay, M.L.A. for the district. He has a considerable breadth under cultivation, and, in addition, keeps a large stock of cattle and horses. Wheat and oats grow very well indeed here. Some fields we saw would compare favourably with anything we have yet seen. At present, owing to the absence of a good market, very little wheat is exported, the heavy rates charged not admitting of this being done at a profit. Garden produce, such as cabbages, peas, turnips, and pumpkins, grows splendidly; indeed, roots of all sorts seem to do much better here than at home, and seem freer from attacks of insects and disease. Before returning, we ascended an eminence called Red Deer Hill, which commands an extensive view of the country all round, places 25 miles distant being in sight; the atmosphere is so clear that objects can be distinctly seen for long distances. The whole country is thickly studded over with bluffs, small lakes, or sloughs, and in some parts is inclined to be hilly, though not too much so for the purposes of agriculture. In my opinion, however, I think that stock-raising and mixed farming would be very much more profitable at present than grain-raising. The North-West Mounted Police Barracks are situated on the plain above the town; they are not so extensive as at Regina, being built to accommodate 100 men. The officer commanding, Major Cotton, very kindly showed us round; he makes a hobby of keeping pet animals, and his collection includes bears, foxes, coyotes, or prairie wolves, and jumping deer. The horses in connection with the force are got from the horse ranches of Alberta, and are known as "bronchos." They are fed on oats and natural hay, the former being supplied by surrounding farmers at the rate of 25 cents per bushel, or 8s. per quarter. The hay is put up principally by Indians, who are numerous in this locality.

A Drive in the District.

On Monday, 25th September, the party, with the exception of one, set out on police conveyance, with the intention of camping out at a place 25 miles south-west of Prince Albert, and about 4 miles south of the south branch of the river Sa-katchewan. We had lunch at a farm on the banks of the river, just before crossing the ferry. All the available land contained between the forks of the river has been taken up by settlers, and, although farms can be bought at a reasonable figure, there is no land open for homesteading. On crossing the river, we enter a country that as yet is but very sparsely settled. In our drive of 10 miles to the camping ground we only passed two houses. The land here is very rich, and suitable for all kinds of farming. Water and wood are plentiful, and the pea-vine and wild vetch grow thickly all over the place. Some herds of cattle we passed were rolling fat, with bright, glossy coats; an improve-

ment in the breed, however, would be desirable. Our destination was reached at about 6 p.m., and immediately preparations were made for passing the night; in a few minutes the camp fire was blazing and the bell tent pitched. Our evening meal consisted of beef, ham, prairie chicken, tea, &c.; the chicken being part of our day's sport. A room in a neighbouring farm-house, which belongs to a half-breed settler, was kindly placed at our disposal for sleeping quarters, and we proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as possible for the night. We placed as many rugs and buffalo skins underneath us as possible, and slept with part of our clothes on. I was more fortunate than the rest of my companions in being able to secure a down bed to place between me and the floor. Under the circumstances, a very comfortable night was passed.

The following day was devoted to investigating the sporting resources of the land, and was given over wholly to shooting. We started out at 6 a.m., and shot prairie chicken, a bird resembling a grouse in everything except colour, which is a good deal lighter, with white feathers. On our return to camp, at 9 a.m., our united bag amounted to about 20 brace. The birds are beginning to pack a good deal, and some of the flocks we flushed would number over a hundred birds. After a second breakfast, we set out on our return journey to town, going by a fresh trail to the ferry. The country all along has very much the same appearance, and seems to be a little more thickly settled than what we passed through the previous evening. On recrossing the river, we entered the John Smith Indian Reserve, and, following the river bank for a few miles in an easterly direction, returned to town by a different trail from the one taken coming out. On the way back we passed a great number of small lakes, which literally abound in wild duck of all varieties. We had a good deal of shooting, and our bag, on reaching Prince Albert, amounted to 30 brace of chicken and 12 ducks. A considerable number of birds escaped from the want of a good retriever: unless chicken are shot dead, or their legs broken, they run very swiftly over the ground, and disappear from view in the rank vegetation.

I looked over two river steamboats which are laid up on the bank below the town for the winter. They are built on the same principle as the Mississippi River boats, with a stern paddle-wheel, and, though of considerable size, only draw about 4 ft. of water. Owing to the number of shifting sand bars in the river, navigation is rendered very difficult and uncertain. Since the railway has come in the amount of traffic by water has decreased very much, and now there is hardly sufficient to give full employment to one boat.

Advantages of Prince Albert.

Prince Albert is a very good district for an emigrant who has a little capital to go to, and who wishes to go in for mixed farming. All stock do well, and there is no doubt that this part of the country has a great future before it. All a man would have to do is to hold on, and he would grow into wealth. There is some good society in the town, so that nobody need be afraid of being cut off from the world by coming

here; and, even with the present railway communication, a couple of days takes you to Winnipeg.

To the Pacific. From Prince Albert we proceeded straight through to the Pacific Coast, only waiting at Regina sufficiently long to make the train connection. The latter place was left at 5.37 p.m. on Thursday, and Vancouver was reached at 7 p.m. on Saturday—that is, after allowing for the difference of one hour in the time, about 48 hours to accomplish the journey, or at the rate of a little over 23 miles an hour. I may mention that on reaching Vancouver our train was over three hours late. It is useless for me to begin to describe the wild grandeur of the scenery passing through the mountains, and I need only say that as good a description as can be given is to be found in the Canadian Pacific Railway time-table. At Ashcroft, a station 204 miles from Vancouver, Mr. K. B. MacLennan, a native of the Black Isle, and who has lived in Inverness for some time, joined the train. He has been from 10 to 12 years on this side of the Atlantic, and has recently come over from the States, and now is engaged in teaming from Ashcroft to the Cariboo Gold Mines. From his conversation I gathered much useful information as to the general resources of the country, and the probable success of young men coming here. It seems a general opinion that there are plenty of labouring men here at present, and what is wanted is men with some capital.



VANCOUVER.

Vancouver.

Vancouver is a city of 18,000 inhabitants. Until 1880 its site was covered with a dense forest, and since then, notwithstanding its being once burnt to the ground, it

has increased with extraordinary rapidity. Most of the buildings are made of stone, or brick and lime, and some are very handsome indeed. On Monday morning, it was arranged that we should proceed down the sound in a steam launch, and sail round the coast to the Fraser River, seeing the fertile land at the delta of the river. However, the morning proved so stormy that it was considered safer to go to New Westminster by the new electric tramway, and from there go down by boat.

New Westminster (8,000 inhabitants) is situated on the Fraser River, at a distance of about 12 miles per the electric railway from Vancouver, and, like it, is chiefly built of stone. We visited the city market. The following are the prices paid for the principal commodities sold, viz.:—Baled timothy hay, \$13 per ton of 2,000 lbs.; butter, 25 cents per lb.; beef, 10 cents per lb. for hind-quarters, and 8 cents for fore-quarters; pears, \$1.25 per box of 30 lbs.; plums, 60 cents per box of 20 lbs.; apples, \$1 per box of 40 lbs.; spring chickens, \$5 per dozen.

The chief industry of the town is in connection with salmon-canning and lumber. This year enormous numbers of fish have been taken, and prime salmon are selling just now retail at the rate of 10 cents for a 12-lb. fish. At 12 o'clock our party got on board the steam launch "Minnie," and went down stream as far as Ladner's Landing, so called after one of the original settlers. The distance, 12 miles, was accomplished in about 1½ hours. On our way down we could see that the river was simply teeming with fish, several jumping out of the water close beside the boat. I have never seen anything like the number of salmon in this river: they in some parts crush each other to death. At this point we were within a few miles of the American boundary, and, on proceeding for a short drive round the country, were several times within sight of American ground. The land is what we would call "carse" land, and has at some time been washed down by the river. It extends perfectly flat for many miles in all directions, and is only a few feet above high-water mark. I should say that drainage would be a difficult matter to contend with, owing to the lack of a proper fall. The principal crops grown are timothy hay, of which 3 tons are raised to the acre; oats, giving 60 to 70 bushels; and potatoes, average return being 12 tons. All sorts of roots and vegetables flourish extraordinarily well; turnips are said to give an average return of above 40 tons per acre, and some of the specimens seen by us were of enormous size. The land here, which is all owned by private individuals, can be bought at prices ranging from \$50 to \$100 per acre. Fruit trees of all sorts grow well, and give good crops where the ground is not too damp. The advantage of farming here is that a ready market is got for everything produced. All sorts of agricultural produce is imported into British Columbia, a good deal of which comes from the States, in consequence paying a heavy duty. This demand is bound to keep up, as the principal resources of the province lie in its fish, lumber, and mineral wealth; and the area of land suitable for agriculture, though of a rich nature, is comparatively limited, and confined to the bottom lands and valleys of rivers. Back

from the railway line there are many fertile valleys, but as yet the means of transport is very difficult and costly. However, the country is being opened up every year by means of Government roads and railways. Recently, the gold mines which are found all over the province are being developed by means of syndicates and limited liability companies. On our return to Vancouver, the Mayor, Mr. F. Cope, took us to one of the two fire halls in the town, in order to test the efficiency of the Fire Brigade. The men were in bed, and 55 seconds after the alarm bell was rung the horses were ready yoked to proceed to the fire. In connection with the bell there are electric wires leading to the loose-box doors, and when the bell is struck the doors fly open, the horses—which were in excellent training—rushed forth and fell into their proper place under the harness, which is always suspended in readiness. By this time the men, who slid down a polished rod from above, clasped the collars, which fastened with a spring below, fixed the reins, which were furnished with spring hooks, mounted the box, and were ready to proceed. The horses are always kept with the bridles on.

On Tuesday, 3rd October, we left Vancouver for *Vancouver Island*. Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island, by the steamer "Yosemite," at 3.30 p.m., and landed at Victoria (population, 20,000) about 10.30 p.m. The Island of Vancouver is very heavily timbered, principally with Douglas pine and cedar, and the surface is inclined to be uneven and in some places mountainous. Only a comparatively small proportion of the land is suitable for agriculture, and now most of what is clear of timber has been taken up. In consequence, settlers intending to take up land here would either have to buy, or clear off the timber. Owing to the fertility of the soil and the mild climate, land produces a good return of every crop sown; but, taking into consideration the heavy rainfall, cereal crops are not the best, in my opinion, to go in for. Fruit, hops, potatoes, and vegetables of all sorts do remarkably well, and a remunerative market can always be got for them. The first farm we stayed at was Braefoot, rented by Mr. Henry King, whom we found busily engaged in harvesting his potatoes, assisted by Chinese labour. The farm extends to about 250 acres, of which 150 acres are cleared, and for this he pays a rent of \$50 per month, and taxes which amount to \$150 per annum. Potatoes give an average return of 4 tons, oats 50 bushels, and wheat 30 bushels, per acre; and the average prices are \$20 per ton for potatoes, 45 cents per bushel for oats, and 90 cents for wheat. Wages for white men run to \$30 per month, and board; and Chinese receive \$1.10 per day, without board. Milk, delivered in town, fetches 30 cents per gallon; and cows yield about the same quantity as in Britain. Oil-cake costs \$40 per ton, bran \$24 per ton, and timothy hay mixed with clover \$14 per ton. Butter sells for 40 cents per lb. From these figures it is at once apparent that dairying is much more profitable than grain-raising. All the farms we passed had orchards attached, and all the trees were heavily laden with fruit—peaches, plums, prunes, pears, and apples, all doing well. We stopped for lunch at South Saanich, which lies about 12 miles north of Victoria, and will soon be connected with it by

the line of railway presently in course of construction. This line, which is called the Victoria and Saanich Railway, will be about 16 miles long when completed, and is opening up a good tract of country. Naturally, the price of land has gone up immensely along the line, and especially near the proposed stations. Land which 20 years ago was bought for \$1 an acre is now worth from \$100 to \$150. After lunch I separated from the rest of the party, and was driven by Mr. Green to see the hop garden and farm occupied by Mr. H. Breeds, Oakhurst, North Saanich. Mr. Breeds came out from England a few years ago, and intends to go in for hop-raising here on an extensive scale. I saw a sample of this year's crop, which seemed to me to be of excellent quality; but, as I have seen only a very few samples before, I am not in a position to judge. He estimates the cost of laying down a garden here, 10 acres in extent, to be \$3,667; this includes the price of all the necessary implements for working, and also a drying kiln. *Working Expenses.*—On an average crop of 1,200 lbs. to the acre, the annual expenses, including cultivation, depreciation of poles, picking, drying, and baling, may be estimated at 12 cents per lb., or, in round figures, \$150 an acre. If the owner had his own horses, and put in his own work as well, a very large portion of this would not be incurred; but, taking it as it stands, it would represent \$1,500 on a garden of 10 acres. If an average crop of 1,200 lbs., and an average price of 25 cents per lb., are taken, we get a return of \$300 per acre, or \$3,000 for 10 acres; leaving a net profit of \$1,500, which represents interest at the rate of 42½ per cent. on the capital outlay.

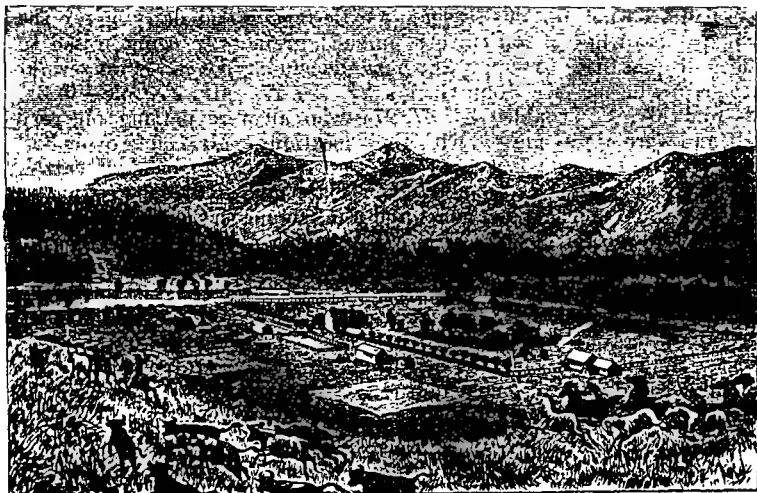
On Thursday, 5th October, we left Victoria at 2.30 a.m., and, passing through Vancouver, reached Mission City, a small town 43 miles inland, at 12.34 p.m. After lunch we were driven out over the Matsqui Prairie, on the Fraser River, opposite Mission City. As only one "rig" was at our disposal, three of the party had to ride, viz., Messrs. Smith, Sim, and myself. This is the first ride I have had since landing, and I enjoyed it very much. I had what is known here as a Mexican saddle, the same as is used by the cowboys in Alberta; there is a horn in front, to which the lasso is attached when roping cattle. As there was a considerable rainfall previous to our visit, the ground we passed over was very wet, and in some parts soft. Vegetation, for this time of year, was very luxuriant. We passed through some fields of clover that would have fetched a long price at home. We called on Mr. H. F. Page, who owns a farm about three miles east of Mission City, on the opposite side of the river, which is here about 600 yards wide. He owns 300 acres, of which 150 are under cultivation, and goes in for mixed farming. Two hundred pigs and 18 cows are kept. No milk is sold, all the produce of the cows being made into butter, which sells at from 28 cents to 30 cents per lb. Pigs, which are in great demand, make just now 7 cents per lb., live weight, and if kept till spring would make 1 cent to 2 cents more. Grain, bran, and feeding stuffs are about the same price as at home. Poultry thrive well, and lay a great number of eggs, which seldom fall

below 24 cents a dozen, and are often very much higher. Chinese labour costs \$15 a month, and board; and white labour \$30, and board, for good men. This season there seems to be an ample supply in the labour market, and wages are likely to come down. There seems to be a very strong feeling against the Chinese; they are considered very undesirable, and, I believe, shortly will not be allowed to come into Canada at all. They live so cheaply and work for so little that white men are not able to compete with them at all. In the evening we were entertained to a banquet, at which I met Mr. MacRae, a native of the west coast of Scotland; he takes great interest in matters at home, and frequently sends communications to the *Scottish Highlander*, Inverness. Before leaving Scotland, 14 years ago, he was a shepherd and game-watcher in several places in the Highlands, so that he knows the people and their capabilities well. It is his opinion that a number who are struggling at home would immensely improve their positions by coming here. Sheep would succeed and pay well in many parts of the province.

The advantages of settling in British Columbia are *British Columbia*. shortly summarised in—first, a good and ready market for everything raised on a farm; second, the probability that this market will last, because agricultural land is comparatively scarce, and the mining, fishing, and lumber resources, which necessarily employ a lot of people, are immense; and, third, the value of agricultural land is very likely to increase from its scarcity. In the interior large tracts are yet open for settlement at \$1 an acre, and near the railways plenty of improved land can be got for from \$30 to \$100 per acre, according to quality. There is also a good opening just now for men with a little capital in the lumber, mining, and fishing industries. This can easily be understood when it is known that British Columbia, with an area of more than 380,000 square miles, contains only a white population of 96,000, that its forests of Douglas pine and cedar are practically inexhaustible, and that its fisheries are unsurpassed in the world.

Our next stop on the homeward journey was at *A Ranch near Calgary*. Calgary, on the east side of the Rocky Mountains. The distance—about 600 miles—was accomplished in 30 hours, or at the rate of about 20 miles an hour. Calgary has a population of 4,500, and is 3,388 ft. above sea level. It is from here that the lines of railway branch off—to the north to Edmonton, and to the south to Fort McLeod. All the country round about is occupied by large ranches, for which it is eminently suitable, because animals, as a rule, can pick up food outside all the year round. Owing to the prevalence of the warm chinook winds, which come across the mountains from the coast, the snow seldom lies on the ground long in winter. As our time was limited, we only visited one ranch, viz., the Chipman Ranch, situate a few miles out of town, and now owned by Mr. R. Robinson. 500 horses and 1,000 head of cattle are kept; but, as at this time of year they run out over a stretch of country more than 30 miles in extent and 10 miles away from the principal buildings, we were only able to see a very few of the stock.

The horses principally bred are those known here as general purpose horses, and resemble very much the class of horses used at home for tramway work. The stallions, some of which we saw, are of various breeds, including Clydesdale, American trotting, Shire, Cleveland Bay, &c. Mr. Robinson used to get, a few years ago, \$300 a team for his four-year-olds: but now the price is not so good, and he has to content himself with a good deal less. Two horses had been taken in from the ranch the day before our arrival, and were in course of being broken. For our benefit one of the men, a negro, mounted them and rode round the yard. As far as I could see, they appeared quite quiet and easy to



RANCH SCENE, ALBERTA

handle. I was informed that now they adopt gentler treatment in breaking in wild horses, known here as "bronchos," than was the case some years ago. The method pursued then was termed "broncho-busting," and, as the name implies, consisted of thrashing out all the spirit in the animal and ruling it by fear: the result usually was that for years the animal was awkward in a stranger's hands, and was inclined to be vicious. For the reasons already stated we were not able to see any of the cattle, not even the bulls, but were informed that they were principally Shorthorns and Herefords. Mr. Robinson puts up as much hay as possible for winter feed, which may not be required for a few years, until a severe winter comes on; this usually happens every four or five seasons.

At 11 a.m. on the 9th October we left Calgary for Red Deer, a station on the Edmonton branch, situated about 96 miles north, which was reached in the evening. Next day we drove out to the south-east. All the odd-numbered sections round the town for five miles or so on each side of the railway,

and extending about 15 or 20 miles along the line, are owned by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company. This land has been hitherto held at from \$5 to \$8 per acre, but a sale is to take place on the 17th inst., at Calgary, at which these lands are to be exposed at an upset price of \$3½ per acre. It is believed that this action on the part of the company will be attended by great benefit to the district. Most of the land outside this belt is open for homesteading, and is already being taken up by settlers. The land is of good quality, with plenty of wood and water, the latter being got of excellent quality almost anywhere, both in springs and by digging wells. In the course of our drive we passed numerous natural hay meadows, from which a large crop had been put up this season. Cattle-raising and dairying are the principal branches of agriculture pursued, grain only being raised in sufficient quantities to supply the home demand. We called on several farmers, including Mr. John Gaetz—22, 28, 27—Mr. J. Cole—6, 38, 26—and Mr. A. Trimble—34, 37, 27—who all were getting on very well, and were highly pleased with their locations. Mr. Gaetz owns 320 acres of land (40 of which are under cultivation), 20 head of cattle, 12 horses, and a few sheep and pigs. Oats give an average return of from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, and the sample is the best we have yet seen in Canada. The natural weight comes up to what we have at home, in some cases exceeding it. Dressed mutton sells for from 9 cents to 10 cents, and beef at from 5 cents to 6 cents, per lb.; cows near calving make from \$35 to \$45 each. Just now the local market is good, owing to the number of new settlers coming in, whose wants for at least the first year must be supplied; when the country gets settled up the demand will to some extent cease. At present the rates charged by the railway are very high, owing to the long distances, so that an export trade—except in such things as butter, beef, &c., which are light in comparison to their value—is rendered unremunerative to the producer; but no doubt this will be rectified. Mr. Trimble goes in for butter-making, and just now milks about 28 cows. He keeps a herd altogether of about 120 head, 47 of which are milkers. He gets about 5 lbs. of butter a week for seven months a year from each cow, and the average price he receives for this is 25 cents per lb. We tasted several samples of butter which had been cured at different seasons of the year, and found them very good, but, to my taste, inclined to be a little too salt. The following day was spent in driving out to the west of the town across the Red Deer River. Only very little of the country in this direction is settled, and in my opinion it offers exceptional advantages to the dairyman and stock-raiser. Natural hay can be got in almost unlimited quantities; the pasture is luxuriant, and contains a great deal of pea-vine and wild vetch. We passed numerous small lakes, which were crowded with wild ducks and geese. In about 1½ hours I bagged 15 prairie chicken, and could have shot many more if it were not that ammunition was short. I have never seen the birds more plentiful in any part we visited.

An Agricultural Show.

On the 12th October the annual fair—or, more properly speaking, show—in connection with the agricultural society of the district was held. Considering that the society is in its infancy, this

being the second show held, the display was very creditable. Mr. Shelton and I were associated with the local judges for the cattle, sheep, and pigs. We had not much difficulty in arriving at our decisions, but a considerable amount of trouble might be saved by placing the various stocks competing in each section together. It is rather confusing having to pick out the different competing animals from among the general herd. The grass-fed fat animals were in excellent condition; indeed, all the stock forward presented a sleek, thriving appearance. A good deal remains yet to be done in improving the various breeds, the only Hereford sire present at the show being a rather plain animal. The exhibits inside the building—which included grain, roots, dairy produce, needlework, &c.—were of very good quality, and would compete favourably with anything shown at home in the local shows. Messrs. Steven, Shelton, Smith, and myself weighed a bushel of the prize oats grown last year, and found the natural weight to be 51 lbs. to the bushel. In the evening we proceeded north by the train to Edmonton, a distance of about 100 miles.

~~Edmonton.~~ The original town of Edmonton stands on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River, and was an old station of the Hudson Bay Company. It is now a town of considerable size, being, like most rising towns in Canada, lighted by electric light. The railway terminus is on the south side of the river, about a mile from North Edmonton, and is becoming rapidly surrounded by a town. As it was so late before we arrived, we put up at the hotel on the south side. As yet there is no bridge across the river, so that communication has to be made by means of cable ferri-boats. I was led to understand that before long it is the intention of the Government to have a bridge erected. Certainly it is very much required, as the present means of communication is both expensive and tedious. On the morning of the 13th we had a short drive to the west of the station, calling on one or two farmers, and arriving back at our hotel at about noon. The country passed through resembled in many respects Red Deer. Very little land in the neighbourhood of the town is now open for homesteading, most of it already being taken up, or held in the hands of speculators. The land is of good quality, and capable of giving heavy crops, the average return for barley being 40 bushels per acre; for oats, 60; and wheat, 35. In the afternoon we crossed the river, and attended the annual show of stock and agricultural produce. Unfortunately, we were too late to see the cattle, which had been removed before our arrival. We were, however, in time to see the roots, grain, needlework, and painting, &c. I thought a good deal of one or two samples of barley, which were excellent in colour, but deficient in weight, only making 52 lbs. per bushel. At the fair I met a good many Scotch people—among others, Mr. Hugh Mackay, from Caithness, who came here 12 years ago with only \$70 in his pocket, and is now comfortably situated on a farm. He speaks in terms of the highest praise regarding the capabilities of this district.

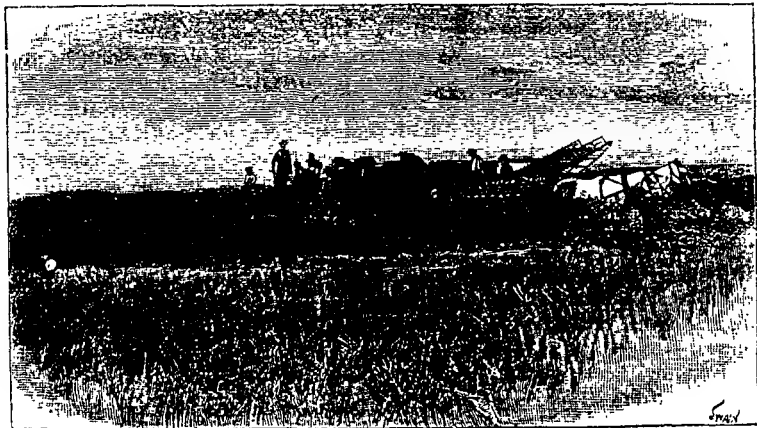
On Saturday we drove in a north-easterly direction to *A Drive in* Fort Saskatchewan, which lies from 18 to 20 miles down the river from Edmonton. Here we crossed over to the north bank, returning by that way to North Edmonton,

and recrossing the river to our hotel. I rode the distance from the fort home, most of the journey being accomplished after dark. The district through which we passed in the morning is called Clover Bar, and is considered very fine farming land. We called on Mr. Carscadden—14, 53, 20, west of the 4th meridian—who has been in the country for the last 11 years. He started with little or no capital, and possesses now 4 horses, 19 head of cattle, 18 to 20 pigs, and a large flock of poultry. He now estimates his place to be worth \$10,000. Average yield is: wheat, 30 to 35 bushels per acre; oats, 60 to 75 bushels per acre; barley, 40 bushels per acre. One year as much as 92 bushels of oats was reaped per acre. Prices received last year were 65 cents for wheat, and 25 cents for oats, per bushel. We had lunch at Mr. Walker's farm, which is situated within five miles of Fort Saskatchewan. Mr. Frank Walker, one of the family, accompanied us on our drive, and gave us much useful information regarding the country. The land here is very fertile, and admirably suited for mixed farming. During our drive we crossed several creeks of running water. Homesteads can be got all along the route to the east lying in and around the Beaver Hills. As it was after five before we got over the ferry at the fort, very little of the opposite side of the river was traversed, before darkness set in. Gold-washing is carried on all along the river, both east and west of Edmonton. All the gravel bars are washed for gold every year when the water is sufficiently low to leave them exposed. Miners make from \$2 to \$5 per-day. We also saw the coal seams which are exposed on the river bank, varying from 2 to 20 ft. in thickness. One mine goes right in under the town, and yields coal of very good quality. All the coal here is lignite, or soft coal.

St. Albert is a picturesque village, situated about 7½ miles north-west of Edmonton, on the banks of the

Sturgeon River. On a hill overlooking the town are built the Roman Catholic Bishop's palace, and a convent of the Sisters of Charity, with the chapel in the centre. These buildings are nicely arranged, and give an imposing appearance to the place. The inhabitants are principally of French descent, and belong to the Roman Catholic religion. We called on Mr. D. Maloney—5, 54, 25—whose farm lies about 1½ miles north-west of St. Albert, and here we were invited inside, and got a great deal of information regarding the country. Mr. Maloney has been in the North-West since the Rebellion in 1870, so that he has had considerable experience of the country, and, from what I could judge, has made the most of his opportunities. Besides several other farms, he owns 600 acres (100 of which are cultivated), 80 head of Polled Angus cattle, 20 general purpose horses, and 50 to 60 pigs. His average returns, in bushels, per acre are: wheat, 30; barley, 50; and oats, 75; and the prices received for last year's crop, which was not disposed of till this spring, were: oats and barley, 40 cents per bushel; and for wheat, 60 to 65 cents. Mr. Maloney hand-feeds with hay during the winter all the cattle which he purposes selling for beef, but they are not housed, and he usually disposes of them in the spring months, receiving from \$35 to \$40 a head. Pigs sell for 8 cents per lb., dressed; and pork makes from 16 to 18 cents per lb. Natural hay meadows abound in this locality, and hay can be put

up in stacks at a cost of \$1.10 per ton. To those intending to go in largely for cattle, this is a matter of importance. We also saw numerous samples of timothy hay, which could not be beaten for quality. Mr. Maloney left Manitoba in the year 1880, and, after being on several locations, finally settled here nine years ago—principally on account of the facilities offered for the education of his rising family. Land of similar quality to Mr. Maloney's can be bought in the district for from \$4 to \$5 per acre. On leaving here we went to St. Albert for lunch, and afterwards proceeded to Edmonton by a circuitous route, going down the Sturgeon River for a few miles, and cutting across country. The land on the south side of the Sturgeon River below St. Albert is principally occupied by half-breeds, and some of it is the finest I have seen in Canada. We passed through parts of the original prairie, where pea-vine and wild vetch formed a pasture as thick as clover in ryegrass at home. I should imagine that stock would fatten on this in a very few weeks. Land for homesteading round Edmonton cannot be got nearer than 10 miles, and in some directions further away. A great number of settlers are arriving every train day, and the country is settling up faster than any part we have yet visited. All the people I have met are happy and prosperous, and are looking forward to a bright future. I am of opinion that a person with moderate capital would do better by purchasing land here partly improved, than going far from town to locate on a homestead.



CROFTERS THRESHING.

The Crofters. On Tuesday, 17th October, we left Edmonton for the crofter settlement at Killarney, Southern Manitoba. We went by rail *via* Calgary to Brandon, and from there drove across country to the town of Killarney—a distance of 62 miles south—which was reached late on Thursday night. The drive from Brandon to Killarney was one of the longest we accomplished in

a single day. We made a start about 8 a.m., passing through the towns of Rounthwaite, Methven, and lunched at Wawanessa, which we left at 3 p.m., reaching Killarney at 9 p.m. All the country we passed through was settled, and the farmers seem to devote their attention principally to wheat-raising. As darkness set in when we were 18 miles from our destination, I could not judge the quality of the land near Killarney.

The following day was devoted to an inspection of the crofter settlement, on the shores of Pelican Lake.

Killarney. These crofters came out five years ago from Lewis, Ross-shire, under the Government scheme of colonisation, by which £120 was advanced to each, to be repaid in instalments—first instalment due in July, 1892. Thirty heads of families came out—18 from the Lewis, and 12 from Harris—and the settlement now numbers homesteads. We met Mr. John Nicholson—25, 4, 17—on his way into town with a waggon-load of wheat, from whom we got the following particulars:—He has 150 acres broken (this year he had 65 acres in wheat, and 45 in oats), 4 horses, 4 cattle, and the usual implements. He had been engaged in fishing at home, and is quite satisfied with his change. The year 1889 was dry, and in consequence his crop was poor; in 1890 he had 900 bushels of wheat for sale, for which he got 70 cents per bushel. In 1891 his yield had increased to 1,900 bushels of wheat, and 700 bushels oats; he received 56 cents per bushel for the wheat, but didn't sell any oats. The price for this season's crop of wheat just now is 45 cents per bushel. Mr. Nicholson has not repaid any of the principal or interest on his Government loan, but expected that he would, with the help of Providence, soon be able to do so. He has had to purchase improved implements, including binder, mower, &c., and had also to lay out money in stock. As interest at the rate of 10 per cent. and upwards is charged on past-due accounts, and as he has only to pay 4 per cent. on his Government loan, he explained that he saved money by paying off his accounts in preference to the Government loan. He would not care to return home, and is now well contented with his prospects.

We called on Mr. John MacLeod—23, 4, 17—who is a man well up in years. He left Stornoway in May, 1888; himself and his son now own 320 acres, 100 of which are in cultivation; this year's crop consists of 70 acres wheat, 17 acres oats, and 3 acres barley. Stock, 2 horses, 4 oxen, and 4 pigs, and poultry. The crop this year has been injured by hot wind in mid-summer, and is not nearly an average return. John MacLeod, son of the above, values his place at \$800, and is of opinion that at home he could do better than here. He is a cooper by trade, and is sorry he left home. During the course of the day we called on several other members of the settlement, and also interviewed a good few who were working at a threshing machine. The old men appeared contented, several significantly remarking that there is always an abundance of good food here. I was struck by the amount of expensive machinery which I saw lying round most of the homesteads. At one place I observed three self-binders, a mower, horse rake, buggy, waggon, &c., all exposed to the mercy of the elements. The

land in most places is of fair quality, and I was afterwards told that at the time the Canadian Government settled them there it was worth \$7 an acre. Not one whom we had interviewed had made any payment to Government, and I am afraid a good many have but little chance of doing so for some time. There seems to be a general feeling that Providence will step in and do something for them, and a lack of self-dependence. It was a curious circumstance that in my wanderings all over Canada I invariably found Scotchmen thriving, happy, and contented; that I used to meet, I should say, four of my own countrymen for every one met by other members of the Delegation; and that it was only on this solitary occasion that I heard any grumbling. Many other Scotchmen had come out from the Old Country in a poorer state than the crofters, and are now well off; they had only themselves to depend on and look to, and, in consequence, succeeded in attaining to the position they now occupy. I believe that this settlement is now in about its worst state; that the crofters are



A FARM-HOUSE, SOUTHERN MANITOBA.

only becoming acquainted with the ways of the country: and that, if they hold on and manage to get rid of the incubus of debt which is now crushing them down, they will yet attain to positions of comparative wealth and comfort.

*To Winnipeg
and Home.*

On Saturday, 21st October, we reached Winnipeg, where our duties practically closed. On our way down to Montreal we stopped at Toronto, Niagara Falls, and Ottawa, joining the s.s. "Sardinian" on Friday night, the 27th October, and sailing the following morning at daylight. After a rather stormy passage, Liverpool was reached on the following Friday week, at about mid-day.

*Emigrants likely
to Succeed.*

In concluding this Report, I would like to make a few general remarks on the country, the class of emigrants most likely to succeed there, and also to give a general idea of the impressions conveyed to my own mind during my trip.

As will be already observed, the foregoing is an accurate account

of my journey, written at the time. Perhaps in some parts it descends too much into detail. I have done this in order that persons intending to emigrate may be in a position to judge for themselves from the actual facts. All the figures hitherto given are taken from the farmers, and not from newspapers or price lists. They vary to a considerable extent in the same district, but, I venture to say, not more so than would be the case if they were given by a number of farmers at home.

I have hitherto said very little regarding the climate of the different parts visited, simply because I am not able to write of them from actual experience. During the period

Climate. I was in Manitoba and the North-West Territories—viz., September and October—nothing could surpass the beauty of the weather: bright sunshine during the day, and the nights cool, with latterly a little frost. This is known as the Indian summer, and is considered the finest time of the year. Without experiencing it, one can hardly form an idea of the bracing effect it has on the system and spirits. Work is got through with far less fatigue and worry than in a damp climate. I was very much struck with the endurance displayed by the horses, travelling 50 to 60 miles a day being considered only an ordinary day's work. The seasons, on an average, are divided as follows:—Spring, April and May; summer, June to September; autumn, October and November; and winter, from December to March. In winter most of the trades and manufactures are carried on as usual, and, with the exception of a couple of months, most outside farming operations can be accomplished.

*Capital
Required by
Settlers.*

It is of the first importance that intending emigrants should possess physical strength and powers of endurance, with a fixed determination to succeed, which must not be too easily upset by difficulties which are certain to arise at the outset of a settler's career.

The amount of capital possessed at starting does not appear to have so much influence as might be expected. Numbers of men we encountered who went to the country with large sums of money are now in comparatively poor circumstances; and, on the other hand, numbers who have landed with very little are now in good positions. Unless the settler is prepared to rough it and work out for a considerable time, however, he ought not to go to Canada without from £200 upwards. With this sum a man of resource and energy could make a fair start. It is very much better to work out for the first year, or, if this is not considered desirable, live on a farm with friends until experience of the ways of the country, the prices of stock and implements, and of the quality of land, is acquired. It is ten chances to one that any person investing money on his arrival in a strange country is imposed upon. It will be found a much better plan to look about, even without working for the first year, if this can be afforded, than to enter rashly into any undertaking; and, best of all, to hire out to farmers for a few months in different parts of the country. In my opinion, the work is not harder than what an average Scotch farm servant is asked to perform, and certainly not so tiring on the system, as most of it is accomplished by simply driving horses, and does not consist of hard manual labour. No person need be afraid to

work on account of his social position being afterwards affected, as in Canada it is the rule for every person to work, and as many persons of good education and family are to be found in the working classes as elsewhere.

Choice of Locality. It is difficult to give advice as to which part an emigrant should proceed to, as this nearly entirely depends on his inclinations and capital. I have endeavoured to describe all the different parts I saw as minutely as possible, and with that variety of soil and situation at his disposal, he must be difficult to please who does not find some part suitable. As a general hint, I might say persons with capital should remain near the large centres in Manitoba and the North-West, or go on to British Columbia, as they would have more opportunities there for laying it out to advantage than in the more remote parts. Persons not so well provided would do better further back, where land is cheap, and where, if they get once nicely located, they could wait for the advance of population. It must always be borne in mind that Canada has developed fast in the immediate past, and is likely to develop even faster in the immediate future. Railways are opening up the country in all directions; comparatively unknown places a few years ago are now becoming centres of commerce. Every year the ocean communication across the Atlantic is becoming cheaper and swifter; and I am of opinion that it does not take a prophet to foretell that ere many years have elapsed the price of land in even the remote parts of the Dominion, and the price of land in Britain, for agricultural purposes, must become very similar.

Soil. The soil in most parts we visited of Manitoba and the North-West is very much alike. It consists of from 1 to 4 ft. rich black argillaceous mould, or loam, resting on a very tenacious clay subsoil, and is said to be the finest in the world for the produce of wheat.

Water and Wood. On the prairie, water for domestic purposes is chiefly got from wells, and is of good quality and healthy. In some places it tastes rather peculiar to the new-comer, but those who are accustomed to it do not observe this. The water in most of the sloughs and lakes is not fit for domestic purposes, on account of the alkali contained in it. Either firewood or coal is got in abundance all over Canada, and no anxiety need be entertained by settlers on account of a scarcity of fuel.

Healthiness of Climate. The healthy appearance of the people, and the amount of work they are able to get through, is the best proof of the healthiness of the climate. Several people I met in the North-West have gone there in bad health, suffering from lung diseases, and are now perfectly healthy. The clear, bright weather, and dryness of the air, are said to be particularly beneficial to people having anything the matter with the lungs.

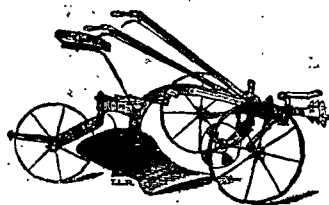
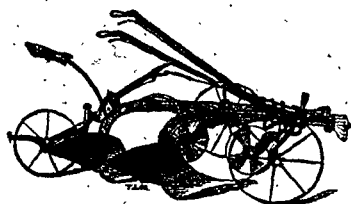
Mixed Farming. Within the last few years the price of cereals has fallen to such an extent that there is now not very much profit in their cultivation, and farmers in Canada are beginning to turn their attention more to mixed farming and dairying. I would like, before closing, to say a few words on this head,

and point out to Scotch farmers who have a knowledge of cattle-feeding and dairy farming the great advantages held out just now in the Dominion to any persons having a knowledge of cattle and cattle-feeding. It is a well-known fact that within the last few years Canadian cattle have improved in breeding to a very great extent. Those who have been connected with the trade for some years back cannot fail to have observed it; and this improvement, owing to the introduction of pure-bred sires from Britain, will continue to a greater extent in the future. Most of the original native breed of cattle have been eliminated, and their place is taken by half-bred cows, or, as they are known, grade cattle. Owing to the restrictions that have been put on sending Canadian stores to Britain, cattle must be exported in a fat condition, and it is found that the feeding of these animals can be done much cheaper in Canada than in Britain. The price of feeding stuffs there, such as bran, corn, hay, ensilage, and roots, is less than half what it is at home. The following estimate gives an idea of the profit left to the feeder in Manitoba:—

	£	s.	d.
Price of a good two-year-old store bullock ...	5	0	0
Feeding five months, at 10s. ...	2	10	0
Carriage to Glasgow and commission on selling ...	5	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£13	0	0

This animal would have been tied up in good condition off the grass, and fed on ensilage, roots, and grain for five months, so that it would be in prime condition, and should scale about 15 cwt., live weight: this, taken at 28s. per cwt., will give a selling price of £21, leaving a margin of profit to the feeder of about £7 a head. Butter and cheese fetch very nearly as much in most parts of the Dominion just now as at home, and pork is also very nearly the same price.

Before closing, I wish to convey my thanks to those who so kindly entertained me during my visit to Canada, and who spared neither time nor trouble in supplying me with information regarding the country.



DOUBLE-FURROW AND SINGLE-FURROW WHEEL PLOUGHS.

APPENDIX A.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CANADA.

General Information. The Dominion of Canada includes the whole of British North America to the north of the United States, and has an area of nearly 3,500,000 square miles. It is divided into eight separate provinces, and the population at the last census was 4,829,411—viz.: Prince Edward Island, 109,088; Nova Scotia, 450,523; New Brunswick, 321,294; Quebec, 1,488,586; Ontario, 2,112,989; Manitoba, 154,472; the North-West Territories, 67,554; British Columbia, 92,767; and unorganised Territories, 32,168. The extent of the country will be better understood by stating that it is larger than the United States without Alaska, and nearly as large as the whole of Europe.

Constitution and Government. The government of the country has at its head the Governor-General, the representative of Her Majesty. The Dominion Parliament consists of the Senate and of the House of Commons, and the government of the day is in the hands of the majority, from whom the Privy Council, or the Cabinet, who act as the advisers of the Governor-General, are taken. The members of the Senate are nominated for life by the Governor-General, and the duration of the House of Commons is fixed by the Act as five years. Each province has also its local Parliament, in some cases of two Houses, as in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec, and in others of only one; as in Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia. The head of the Provincial Government is known as the Lieutenant-Governor, and is appointed by the Governor-General. The constitution of Canada is contained in the British North America Act, 1867, which defines the powers both of the federal and of the local Legislatures. It may be said, generally, that the former deals with matters concerning the community as a whole, and the latter with subjects of local interest. Twenty-seven years' experience has demonstrated that the country has made great progress under the existing institutions, and the principle of union is recognised by all political parties as the sure foundation on which the future of the Dominion depends. There is a free and liberal franchise in operation, both for the Provincial and Dominion Parliaments, which gives most men the benefit of a vote. In the provinces there are county and township councils for regulating local affairs, such as roads, schools, and other municipal purposes, so that the government of the Dominion is decentralised as far as practicable, in the spirit of the Imperial legislation before mentioned.

Climate. Nothing connected with Canada is so much misrepresented and misunderstood as its climate, but it has only to be experienced to be thoroughly appreciated. It is warmer in summer and much colder in winter than in Great Britain; but

the heat is favourable to the growth of fruit and the crops, and in every way pleasant and beneficial, and the cold is not prejudicial to health or life. In fact, Canada is one of the healthiest countries in the world. The winter lasts from the end of November or the beginning of December to the end of March or middle of April; spring from April to May; summer from June to September; and autumn from October to the end of November. The seasons vary sometimes, but the above is the average duration of the different periods. The nature of the climate of a country may be measured by its products. In winter most of the trades and manufactures are carried on as usual, and, as regards farming, much the same work is done on a Canadian farm in autumn and in winter as on English, Scotch, or Irish homesteads. Ploughing is not possible, of course, in the depth of winter, but it is done in the autumn and early spring, and in the winter months cattle have to be fed, the dairy attended to, cereals threshed, machinery put in order, buildings repaired, carting done, and wood-cutting, and preparations made for the spring work, so that it is by no means an idle season. One thing is perfectly certain—that the country would not have developed so rapidly as it has done, and the population would not have grown to its present proportions, had the climate been unfavourable to the health, prosperity, and progress of the community. Of course there are good and bad seasons in Canada, as everywhere else, but, taken altogether, the climate will compare very favourably with other countries in similar latitudes.

Temperature. As the temperature in Manitoba and the North-West Territories is frequently referred to, it is desirable to quote official statistics bearing on the question.

The mean temperature at Winnipeg in the summer is 60.3° , and during the winter 1° ; Brandon, 58.1° and -1.8° ; Rapid City, 62.2° and 2.7° ; Portage-la-Prairie, 61.8° and 12.6° . In the North-West Territories, the summer and winter mean temperatures at the specified places are as follows:—Regina, 59.2° and -2.4° ; Calgary, 55.6° and 12.2° ; Edmonton, 55.2° and 11.3° . It is very evident the temperature only very occasionally reaches the various extreme limits that are sometimes mentioned, or the mean winter temperatures could not be anything like the figures above quoted.

Products of Canada. Reference has been made elsewhere to the agricultural products of Canada. The country also possesses great wealth in the timber contained in the immense forests, and in the minerals of all kinds, including coal, gold, silver, iron, copper, &c. Then, again, the fisheries along the extensive coasts, both on the Atlantic side and on the Pacific, and in the inland waters, are most valuable and varied, and are valued annually at several millions sterling. The principal fishes are salmon, trout, cod, herring, mackerel, halibut, and haddock. Oysters and lobsters are also most numerous. The manufacturing industry already occupies a most important position, and is growing more extensive every year. Almost every kind of manufacture is carried on. This activity is not confined to any one part of Canada, but is apparent in all the older provinces,

and will no doubt in time extend to the western parts of the Dominion also.

Mortgages. Reference is sometimes made to some Canadian farms being mortgaged. It should be borne in mind, however, that a proportion of the Canadian farmers start with little or no capital. In order to provide capital in such cases, the farm is mortgaged, but the loan companies, as a rule, do not advance more than half the value of the properties. The interest paid bears no comparison to the rent of similar-sized farms in the United Kingdom, and the fact of the existence of a mortgage, in these circumstances, is not detrimental to the position of the farmer. Not only is the interest invariably paid, but the experience is that the loans are paid off as they mature. The losses of the Canadian companies are comparatively small, and the investment, therefore, is a good one to the lender, and an advantage to the farmer.

Trade Imports and Exports. Canada's trade—import and export—amounts to nearly £50,000,000 per annum, and is largely with Great Britain and the United States, the balance being exchanged with European countries, the West Indies, South America, Australasia, China, and Japan. The figures given above only include the outside trade, and do not embrace that done between the various provinces. Free trade, in its entirety, exists within the boundaries of the Dominion, and the local business is very large, as the tonnage carried on the railways and canals and on the coasting vessels will show. It may be stated that the revenue now amounts to about \$36,000,000 per annum, of which about \$20,000,000—equal to 17s. per head of the population—is obtained from customs duties on goods imported into Canada.

Markets. Markets, either within or without the Dominion, exist for all the products of the country, and no difficulty is found in this respect. New markets have been provided by the establishment of lines of steamers to the West Indies, Australasia, China, and Japan, which are now in operation. Canada is well served with railway and water communication, and the shipping owned in Canada is so large that it occupies a high place in the list of ship-owning countries of the world. A railway extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and each province possesses excellent railway accommodation; in fact, there are over 15,000 miles of line in operation at the present time. The rivers and canals have been so much improved of late years, that the largest ocean-going steamers can moor alongside the wharves at Quebec and Montreal, and it is possible for a vessel of 500 tons burden to pass from the Atlantic into the great lakes. The enlargement of the canals now in progress, which is to be completed in 1895, will permit ocean vessels of 2,000 tons gross burden to pass to the head of Lake Navigation without breaking bulk.

Social Distinctions. The distinctions of class do not exist in Canada to the same extent as in the mother country. There is no law of primogeniture, and there are no paupers; a feeling of healthy independence pervades all classes, which no doubt

arises from the fact that every farmer is the owner of his acres, is his own master, and is free to do as he wills—a state of things conducive to a condition of freedom unknown in older countries. Then, again, taxation is comparatively light, and many social difficulties, still under discussion in Great Britain, were grappled with in Canada years ago. Religious liberty prevails; there is practically free and unsectarian education; a free and liberal franchise exists; local option in regard to the liquor traffic is in operation; the duration of the Parliament does not exceed five years, and the members are paid for their services; marriage with a deceased wife's sister has been legalised; and there is no poor law system, although orphans and the helpless and aged of both sexes are not neglected, being cared for under the municipal system. And, again, a good system of local government is at work in every province. The system of education in force—under the supervision and guidance of the Provincial Governments—enables the best education to be obtained at a trifling cost, and therefore the poor, as well as the rich, can make themselves eligible for the highest positions in the country. In principle the system in operation is the same in the different provinces, although the details may differ somewhat. In each school district trustees are elected to manage the schools for the inhabitants, who pay a small rate towards their support, the balance being met by considerable grants from the local governments.

British subjects settling in Canada do not require to be naturalised. They are entitled to all the same rights and privileges as their fellow British subjects who may have been born there; indeed, the removal of a family to Canada makes no more difference in their position, as British subjects, than if they had gone instead to any city, town, or village in the United Kingdom. Of course it is a different thing if they go to the United States or any other foreign country. In that case they must renounce their birthright, and their allegiance to their sovereign and their flag, before they can enjoy any of the political advantages of citizenship; and in many parts of the United States land cannot be bought, or sold, or transferred, excepting by naturalised persons.

*Government
Agents in the
United Kingdom.*

Intending settlers in Canada are strongly advised to communicate, either personally or by letter, with the nearest agent of the Canadian Government in Great Britain (see Preface) before they leave, so as to obtain the fullest and latest advice applicable to their cases. Cards of introduction to the Government Agents in Canada are also supplied to desirable persons. Any information supplied by these gentlemen may be thoroughly relied upon.

Then, again, on reaching Canada, or at any time afterwards, the nearest Government Agent should be consulted, as they are in a position to furnish accurate particulars on all matters of interest to the new arrival.

*Government
Agents in
Canada.*

The Dominion Government has agents at Quebec, Montreal, Halifax, and St. John, the principal ports of landing in Canada; and the various Provincial Governments also supervise immigration as far as possible. At Toronto, Ontario, the Superintendent of Immigration is Mr. D.

Spence, 65, Simcoe Street; and in Victoria, British Columbia, Mr. Jessop, the Provincial Government Agent, should be consulted. The following is a list of the various Immigration Agencies under the supervision of the Department of the Interior:—

Winnipeg, Man.	{ Commissioner of Dominion Lands, in charge of Outside Service in Manitoba and the North-West Territories }	Mr. H. H. SMITH.
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Agents at Ports of Call for Steamships in Canada:—

Mr. E. M. CLAY ...	Halifax, N.S.	Mr. P. DOYLE ...	Quebec, Q.
" S. GARDNER ...	St. John, N.B.	" J. HOOLAHAN ...	Montreal, Q.

Dominion Lands Agents in Canada who act as Immigration Agents:—

W. H. HIAM ...	Brandon, Man.	THOS. ANDERSON	Edmonton, N.W.T.
W. G. PENTLAND	Birtle, "	C. E. PHIPPS ...	Oxbow, "
JOHN FLESHER ...	Deloraine, "	E. BROKOVSKI ...	Battleford, "
W. M. HILLIARD ...	Minnedosa, "	GEO. YOUNG ...	Lethbridge, "
W. H. STEVENSON	Regina, N.W.T.	T. B. FERGUSON	Saltcoats, "
AMOS ROWE ...	Calgary, "	JOHN MCKENZIE	New Westminster,
J. G. JESSUP ...	Red Deer, "		B.C.
JOHN McTAGGART	Prince Albert, "	E. A. NASH ...	Kamloops, B.C.

The best time for persons with little or no capital to go out is from April to July—the earlier the better. Domestic servants may start at any time of the year.

No Assisted Passages. There are no free or assisted passages to Canada. The full ordinary steamship fares must be paid by all immigrants, and they must also have enough money in addition to pay for their railway fares from the port of landing to their destination, and to provide board and lodging until work is secured. The Government does not render any assistance in these matters, and all new-comers must be self-supporting. The Government Agents do not book passengers, and intending emigrants are advised to consult the local steamship agents on that subject. Neither do they recommend any one line more than another. They are quite impartial in both respects.

Booking Passages. It is not necessary to say anything in detail about the various steamers going to Canada, or about the fares. All such information can be obtained from the advertising columns of the newspapers, or from the steamship agents, who are to be found in every town or village. Passengers are recommended to take through tickets (including ocean and rail tickets) to their destinations in Canada. They are issued by the steamship companies, and in this way it is often possible to save money—as through tickets often cost less than the ocean ticket and the Canadian rail ticket if taken separately. Many of the railway companies in Great Britain issue cheap railway tickets from various places to the ports of embarkation, such as Liverpool, London, and Glasgow, and in these cases information may be obtained from the railway booking offices.

Luggage. Passengers should pay particular attention to the labelling of their luggage, and labels may be obtained from the steamship companies. They should also bear in mind that the steamship companies only carry free a limited quantity of baggage.

according to the class of ticket taken, and that the railway companies may charge for anything over 150 lbs. weight. The Canadian Pacific Railway carry 300 lbs. free for emigrants proceeding to Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Care should be exercised in deciding what had better be taken to Canada. Furniture, and heavy and bulky goods of that description, had better be left behind, as the freight charged for extra baggage makes it an expensive luxury; all household requirements can be purchased in the country. Agricultural implements and tools should not be taken out as the most improved articles of this description adapted to the country can be purchased in any village in Canada. Skilled mechanics and artisans, when recommended to go out, may take their tools, but they must remember what is stated above, and also that in the Dominion all these things can be bought at reasonable prices. Emigrants may be safely advised to take a good supply of underclothing, heavy and light, for winter and summer wear, house and table linen, blankets, bed-ticks, and any other articles of special value which do not take up much room.

Settlers' effects are admitted free of customs duty if they come within the terms of the following clause of the customs tariff:—

Settlers' Effects free of Customs Duty.

*Settlers' Effects, viz:—*Wearing apparel, household furniture, professional books, implements and tools of trade, occupation, or employment, which the settler has had in actual use for at least six months before removal to Canada, musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, live stock, carts, and other vehicles and agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least one year before his removal to Canada, not to include machinery or articles imported for use in any manufacturing establishment or for sale: provided that any dutiable article entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty until after two years' actual use in Canada; provided also that, under regulations made by the Minister of Customs, live stock, when imported into Manitoba or the North-West Territory by intending settlers, shall be free, until otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council.

Wages.—which, of course, vary from time to time—are, as a general rule, from a quarter to one-half higher than in Great Britain, but in some trades they are even more. The cost of living is lower, upon the whole, and an average family will, with proper care, be much better off in Canada than at home. There are very good openings in Canada for the classes of persons recommended to go out, but it must be borne in mind that hard work, energy, enterprise, and steadiness of character are as essential there as in any other country. Indeed, perhaps they are more necessary; but, on the other hand, there is a much better chance of success for any persons possessing these qualities, and who are able and willing to adapt themselves to the conditions of life obtaining in Canada.

Capitalists. Persons with capital to invest will find many openings in Canada. They can engage in agricultural pursuits, taking up the free-grant lands or purchasing the improved farms to be found in every province, or in mining, or in the manufacturing industries. Again, a settled income will be found

to go much farther in Canada, and while the climate is healthy and the scenery magnificent, there are abundant opportunities for sport; and the facilities for education are not to be excelled anywhere.

Where to go. Young men should go to Manitoba, the North-West, or British Columbia. Older men, with capital and

young families, should go to one of the older provinces, and either buy or rent an improved farm. This, however, is only a general statement, and individual cases must be decided by the special circumstances of each. In Manitoba and the North-West, and in some parts of British Columbia, pioneer life on free grants, or away from railways, is attended with a certain amount of inconvenience, and an absence of those social surroundings which may be obtained in the older settled parts of these and other provinces, and this fact should be borne in mind by those who are considering the subject. But even in these districts improved farms may be purchased at reasonable rates.

Capital necessary. It is difficult to lay down a hard-and-fast rule as to the amount of capital necessary for farm work. The answer depends on the energy, experience, judgment, and enterprise of the person who is to spend the money, the province selected, whether free-grant land is to be taken up or an improved farm rented or purchased, and many other details. It may safely be said, however, that if a man has from £100 to £200 clear on landing, and some knowledge of farming, he is in a position to make a fair start on the free-grant land in Manitoba and the North-West; but it is generally advisable to obtain some experience of the country before commencing on one's own account.

Farm Servants. There is a large and growing demand for male and female farm servants in every part of the Dominion. Machinery of various kinds is in daily use, but labour is scarce notwithstanding, and good hands can in the proper seasons find constant employment. Many persons of this class who started as labourers now have farms of their own in some of the finest parts of the Dominion. Market gardeners, gardeners, and persons understanding the care of horses, cattle, and sheep, may also be advised to go out.

Domestic Servants. So far as numbers are concerned, perhaps the largest demand of all is for female domestic servants. The wages are good, the conditions of service are not irksome, and comfortable homes are assured. Domestic servants should go at once on their arrival to the nearest Government Agent. These gentlemen often have in their offices a list of vacant situations, and will refer applicants to the local ladies' committees, so that they may have the benefit of supervision and guidance, until they are satisfactorily placed. Servants should, however, take their characters with them, and must bear in mind that good records are just as indispensable in Canada as elsewhere. They may safely go out at any time of the year.

Other Classes of Labour. There is little or no demand for females other than domestic servants. Governesses, shop assistants, nurses, &c., should not go out unless proceeding to join friends able and willing to aid them in getting

employment. Mechanics, general labourers, and navvies are advised to obtain special information as to their respective trades before going out. The demand is not now so great as it was a few years ago, and such men, especially with large families, are not encouraged to set out *on the chance* of finding employment. They may be safely advised to start when going to join friends who advise them to do so, or if they have the inclination and the knowledge to enable them to change their callings and become agriculturists.

Clerks, draftsmen, shop assistants, and railway *employés* are not advised to emigrate unless proceeding to appointments already assured. Any demand for labour of these kinds is fully met on the spot.

No encouragement is held out to members of the legal and medical and other professions, schoolmasters, and persons desiring to enter the military and civil services, to go to the Dominion, especially in cases where immediate employment is necessary. There are always openings and opportunities for men of exceptional abilities with a little capital; but, generally speaking, the professional and so-called lighter callings in Canada are in very much the same position as they are in the United Kingdom, the local supply being equal to, if not greater than, the demand.



CANOEING.

APPENDIX B.

THE CANADIAN EXHIBITS AT CHICAGO.

The Canadian exhibits at the Chicago Exhibition having been referred to in several of the delegate's Reports, it has been considered desirable to publish such facts as are available as to the success which the Dominion obtained on that occasion in competition with the world. The American Press are unanimous in conceding that Canada will reap a greater benefit from the World's Fair than any other country. The variety of the vegetable products of Canada served to illustrate in a manner, hardly to be shown in any other way, the climate and the fertility of its soil; while the exhibits of mineral wealth, of its fisheries, and of its manufacturing industries demonstrated the possibilities of future development.

It may be said that Canada was unrepresented on many of the juries connected with several of the groups of exhibits, and on others the Canadian members were of course in a minority. It is eminently satisfactory to find, therefore, that the awards in all classes of exhibits have been so numerous, and frequently coupled with remarks of a flattering nature.

The following is an extract from the report of the British Consul at Chicago to the Earl of Rosebery, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the Chicago Exhibition:—

Canada has been brought prominently forward in a manner which can scarcely fail to assure permanent benefit. Its chief exhibits were natural products, though the colony was represented in every department except electricity. Its cheese and butter exhibits were remarkable, and gained a disproportionately large number of awards, beating all competitors; Japan is understood to have sent a special commission to examine and report on the methods adopted by the colony in these matters. The show of animals, especially sheep, met with great approval. The quality of Canadian fruit was generally recognised. The exhibit of grain and other products of the north-western provinces has shown what can be grown, and as a result many inquiries have been made with a view to settlement in those parts. The same applies to British Columbia, regarding which province overtures have been made by quite a colony of Austrian subjects for settlement, with a view to fruit-growing and general farming.

Agriculture. The Canadian exhibits in this important department were excelled by none in quality and appearance. The excellence of the wheat was the subject of general comment, and a considerable demand has already arisen on the part of United States farmers for seed grain from Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Canada obtained 1,016 awards in this group, including 776 awards for cheese and butter. This does not comprise the awards obtained by Manitoba, which have not yet been received. It is understood that in the tests for quality, made under chemical analysis on behalf of the Exhibition authorities, Manitoba No. 1 Hard Red Fyfe wheat gave the very best results.

Cheese and Butter.

The exhibitions of cheese and butter were the largest of their kind ever made on the North American continent. Two competitions were arranged for Cheddar or factory cheese, in the months of June and October. In the first named, the United States entries numbered 505, and the Canadian 162. There were 138 prizes awarded, of which Canada took 129, and the United States 9. Thirty-one exhibits of Canadian cheese also scored higher points than the best United States cheese. In the October competition for the same class of cheese, made previous to 1893, there were 82 entries from the United States, and 524 from Canada. There were 110 prizes offered, and Canada secured them all. There were also 414 awards for cheese made in 1893. Of these, Canada obtained 369, and the United States 45. In these two competitions, therefore, the United States entered 587 exhibits and took 54 prizes, as against Canada's 686 entries and 608 prizes. There were three judges for cheese, two for the United States, and one for Canada. The significance of this result is enhanced when considered in conjunction with the difference in the population of the two countries—65 millions against 5 millions. Canada now exports several millions of pounds of cheese per annum more than the United States to the English market, her exports to the mother country having risen from 30,889,353 lbs. in 1875 to 127,843,632 lbs. in 1892. In the butter competition, Canada took 27 awards. The great development of the cheese industry in recent years has interfered, no doubt, with the expansion of the butter trade. The steps, however, that have been taken of late years to encourage this industry are having effect; and the Dairy Commissioner of the Dominion has expressed an opinion that within five years' time the manufacture of butter in Canada will be equal to that of cheese, both in quality and quantity. In 1893 Canada exported 43,193 cwt. of butter to Great Britain.

Agricultural Machinery.

The absence of awards for Canadian agricultural machinery is explained by the withdrawal of the exhibits from competition, it having been decided that machines adapted to field work should be judged by field tests. As this would have necessitated bringing duplicate machines to Chicago at great expense, or the spoiling of the actual exhibits for show purposes during the remainder of the Fair, the greater number of Canadian and United States exhibitors withdrew from competition. Professor Thurston, the chairman of the jurors on agricultural implements, and consulting mechanical engineer to the Exposition, stated that in design, finish, and smoothness of operation the Canadian machinery was equal to anything in the Exhibition.

Horticulture.

Canada obtained 65 awards. The list included seven different awards for Canadian grapes—a valuable tribute to the climate of the country. The small number of awards is due to the fact that awards were only given to collective exhibits, and not to individual exhibitors, or for each variety of fruit shown. With regard to the vegetable display, it was admitted that the Canadian exhibit was greatly superior to any other. Both fruit and

vegetables won the highest praise from the jurors for variety, excellence, and quality: and in this connection the report of the British Consul is especially interesting.

Canada more than sustained at Chicago her splendid record at Philadelphia in 1876 in this department, the live stock and poultry exhibited having secured more than one-half of the total prizes offered. In cattle, with 184 entries, Canada took 104 prizes, 17 medals, and 3 diplomas; against 532 entries of the United States; and 306 prizes and 13 medals. In horses, Canada had 96 entries, and 44 prizes, 2 gold medals, 10 medals, and 3 diplomas; the United States, 446 entries, 257 prizes, 6 gold medals, 12 medals, and 4 diplomas. In sheep, Canada, with 352 entries, secured 250 prizes, 5 silver cups, and 8 diplomas; against the United States' 478 entries and 193 prizes. In swine, Canada's 68 entries obtained 64 prizes, and the United States' 96 entries 67 prizes. In poultry and pet stock, Canada was awarded 501 prizes with 1,147 entries, and the United States 671 prizes with 2,453 entries. The grand totals were: Canada, 1,847 entries and 1,175 prizes; the United States, 4,005 entries and 1,494 prizes. This must be regarded as a very great success especially when the populations of the United States and Canada are taken into account. All the Canadian sheep and swine were bought by the Commissioner for Costa Rica.

Fish and Fisheries.

The committee of jurors considered the Canadian fish exhibit the best and most complete in the Exposition. Twenty-four individual exhibitors also obtained medals.

Mines and Mining.

No single exhibit in the mining building attracted more attention, and came in for more favourable comment, than the Canadian display; and the fact that there were 67 collective exhibits which took gold medals and diplomas in competition with other countries, speaks highly for the variety and richness of the mineral resources of the Dominion. The collections of ornamental and precious stones were much admired, and orders were subsequently received from two of the leading manufacturing jewellers of New York. The nickel ore exhibits were mentioned as being higher in grade than any other shown at the Fair. Canadian copper also obtained a flattering award; and the fine exhibit of anthracite and bituminous coal from all the mines in the North-West Territories, now being worked, attracted a great deal of interest.

Machinery.

The machinery exhibit was a small one, but almost every exhibit took a prize, 43 gold medals and diplomas falling to the Dominion. Professor Thurston, chairman of the jurors, and consulting mechanical engineer to the Exposition, stated, in an address, that in design, finish, and smoothness of working the general machinery shown by Canada was equal to anything shown; and that, as compared with the exhibit made in 1876 at Philadelphia, Canada had made greater relative progress in manufacturing, since that time, than any other nation taking part in the Exhibition.

In this department Canada obtained 30 medals and diplomas. The Canadian Pacific Railway train was referred to as the finest and most complete on exhibition, which reflects great credit on the position manufacturing enterprise has reached in Canada.

The great development in the industries of the Dominion is illustrated very aptly by the following return, taken from the census of 1891:—

	1881.	1891.	Increase.	Per Cent.
Number of establishments ...	49,923	75,768	25,845	51·8
Capital invested ...	\$165,302,623	\$353,836,817	\$188,534,194	114·0
Number of employes ...	254,935	367,865	112,930	44·43
Wages paid ...	\$59,429,002	\$99,762,441	\$40,333,439	67·86
Cost of raw material ...	\$179,918,593	\$255,983,219	\$76,064,626	42·3
Value of products ...	\$309,676,068	\$475,445,705	\$165,769,637	53·5

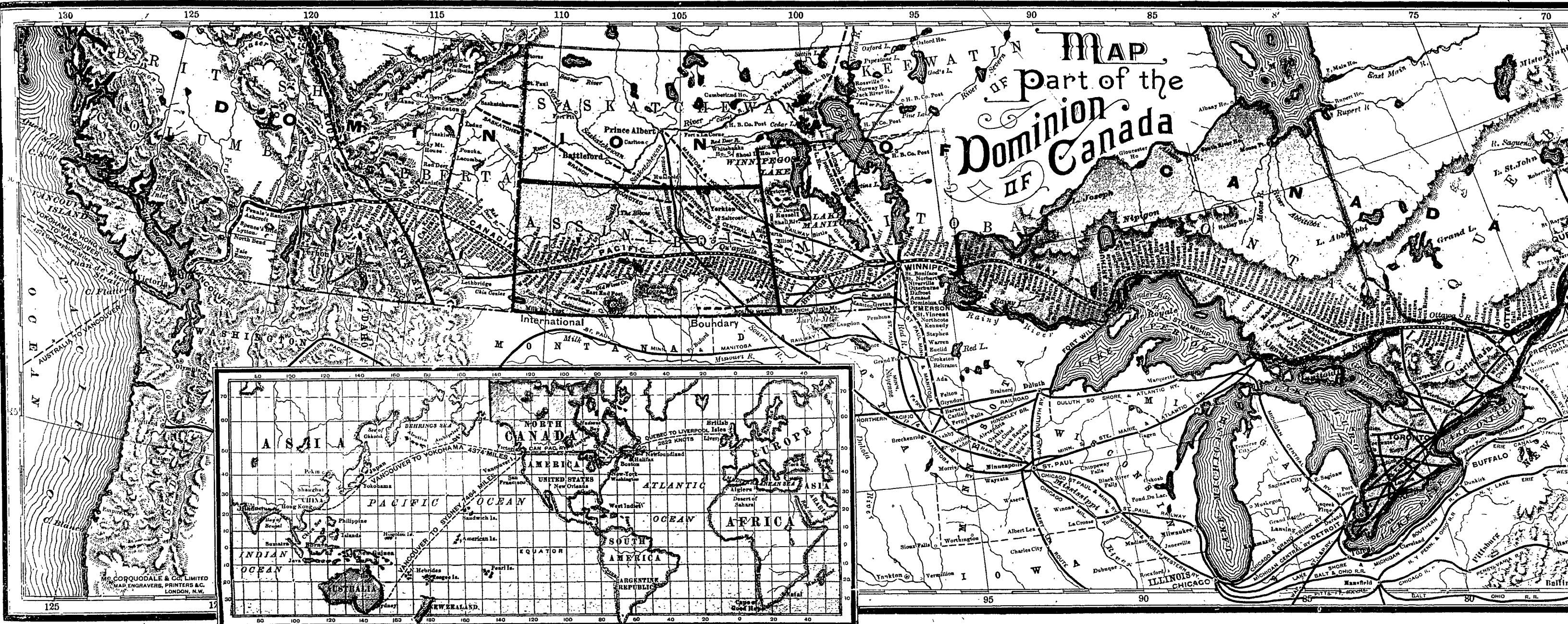
Canada had a most interesting exhibit of manufactures, which secured 124 awards, and drew an appreciative statement from the president of the jurors on textiles—a member of the Austrian Commission, and himself a manufacturer of high-grade cloths in Austria—to the effect that the progress made by textile manufacturers in Canada had been more rapid during the last five years than that of any other country showing industrial products. It will be remembered by many readers of these pamphlets that Canada's display of manufactured articles at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886 attracted much attention.

The educational system of the Dominion has a world-wide reputation, and the exhibits in that department were naturally, therefore, an object of sustained interest throughout the course of the Exhibition. 191 awards were obtained by Canada. No better evidence of the excellence of the display can be had than that in a section supposed to be the smallest among the Canadian exhibits, such a large number of awards should have been secured.



PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

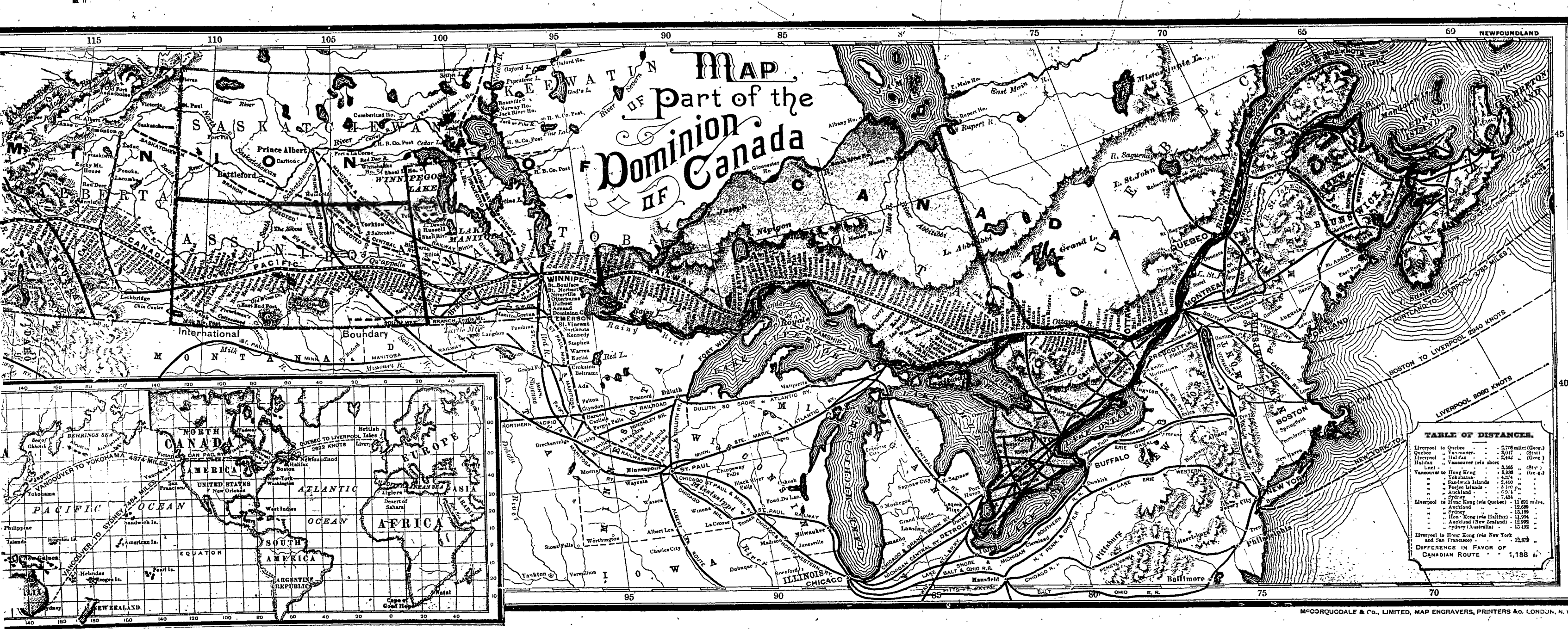




Map of part of the Dominion of Canada



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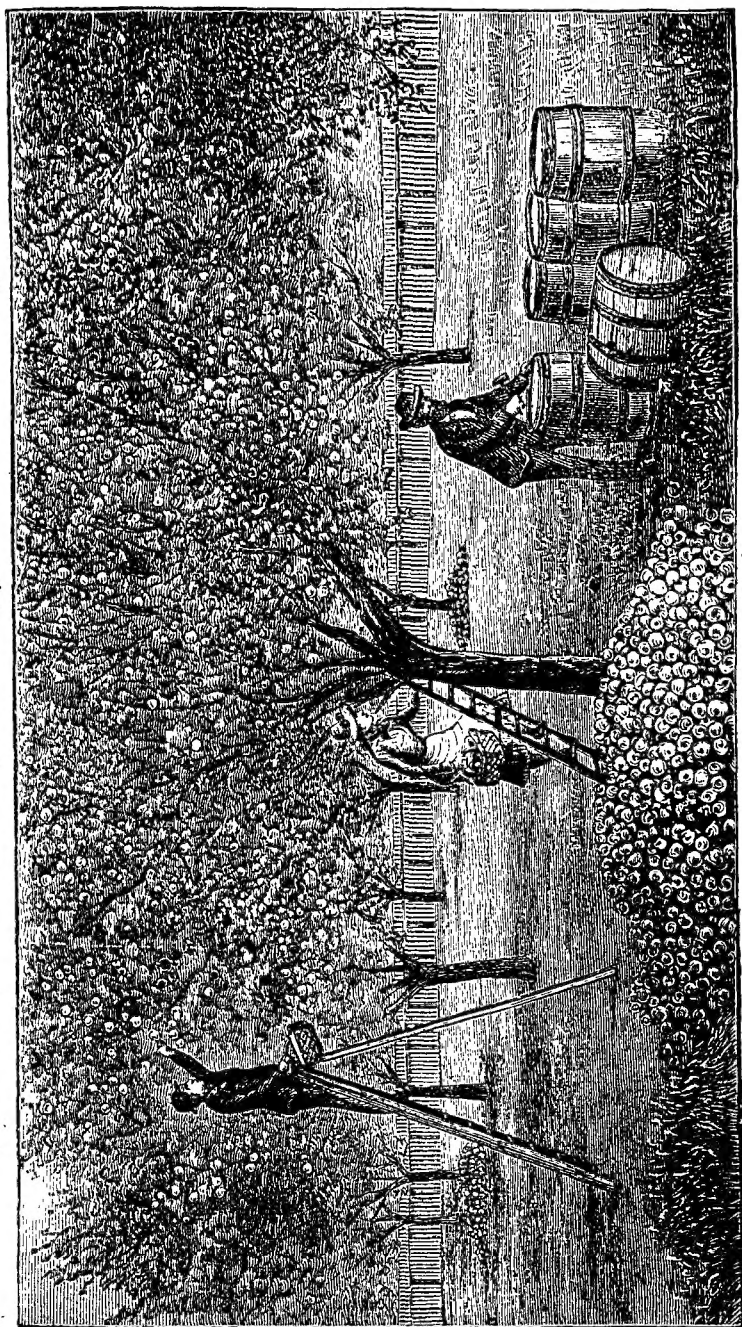


MAP OF Part of the Dominion of Canada

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

Liverpool to Quebec	2,778 miles (Geog.)
Quebec to Halifax	2,047 (Stat.)
Liverpool to Vancouver (via short line)	2,864 (Stat.)
Vancouver to Hong Kong	5,225 (Stat.)
Yokohama to Hong Kong	4,374 (Stat.)
San Francisco to Hong Kong	2,460 (Stat.)
San Francisco to New York	2,140 (Stat.)
New York to London	3,450 (Stat.)
London to Hong Kong (via Quebec)	11,621 miles.
London to Hong Kong (via New York and San Francisco)	12,879
Difference in favor of Canadian Route	1,188





CANADIAN APPLE ORCHARD.

(691,000 barrels of apples exported from Canada in the year ending June 30, 1892.)

Complete Copies of the Tenant-Farmers' Reports, and other Illustrated Pamphlets on Canada, and cards of introduction, may be obtained, post free, on application to

The High Commissioner for Canada (SIR CHARLES TUPPER, BART., G.C.M.G., C.B.), 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W. :

Or to the following Canadian Government Agents :—

MR. JOHN DYKE, 15, Water Street, Liverpool ;

MR. THOMAS GRAHAME, 40, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow ;

MR. W. STUART, Nethy Bridge, Inverness ;

MR. P. FLEMING, 44, High Street, Dundee ;

MR. ERNEST WOOD, 79, Hagley Road, Birmingham ;

MR. J. W. DOWN, Bath Bridge, Bristol ;

MR. GEORGE LEARY, Garden House, William Street, Kilkenny.

Several of the Provinces of Canada have agencies in Great Britain, as follows :—

ONTARIO . . . Mr. P. Byrne, Nottingham Buildings, 19, Brunswick Street, Liverpool.

BRITISH COLUMBIA Mr. H. C. Beeton, 33, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

NEW BRUNSWICK Mr. James I. Fellows, 56, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

MANITOBA . . . Mr. A. J. McMillan, 33, James Street, Liverpool.

NOVA SCOTIA . . . Mr. John Howard, 143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Samples of Canadian produce, of all kinds, from the different Provinces of the Dominion, may be seen at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London. Visitors should inquire for the Canadian Curator (Mr. Harrison Watson), or the Assistant Curator (Mr. F. Plumb), from whom information and pamphlets can be obtained.

